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SYNTHESIS OF ENERGETIC MATERIALS
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OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

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PROJECT RR024-02-01/02-0D

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March 1984

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) An improved, novel method for the synthesis of the energetic polymer precursors, 3,3-dinitropropanol-1, and 3,3,5,5,7-pentanitro-5-azanonane- diol-1,9, <u>1</u> , is described. The preparation of polyformals of <u>1</u> has been investigated, and selected polymers of this type have been characterized. The cross-linking reaction with a triisocyanate for a typical polyformal of <u>1</u> was demonstrated. The synthesis of 3,3,5-trinitro-5-azaheptane-diol-1,7 was accomplished, and the formation of a polyformal on reaction with		

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$\text{CH}_2\text{O}/\text{BF}_3$ etherate was observed. 2,2,3,3,4,4-hexafluoropentane-1,5 gave higher molecular weight polyformals (up to M.W. 10,000) than previously reported on reaction with $\text{CH}_2\text{O}/\text{conc. H}_2\text{SO}_4$.

In efforts to synthesize polycyclic nitramines, potential routes to bicyclo-HMX from 2,4,6,8-tetraacetyl-2,4,6,8-tetrazabicyclo(3.3.0)octane were examined, but the synthesis of the target compound was not achieved. Several ring di- and tetrasubstituted derivatives of piperazine were synthesized, and condensation reactions with appropriate substrates toward bi- and polycyclic ring systems were investigated. A study of methods for the synthesis of diaza- and tetrazacyclooctadienes via elimination reactions with suitably substituted saturated precursors has been initiated.

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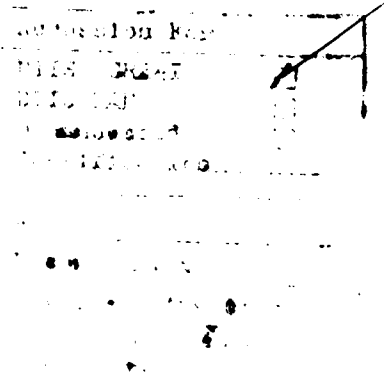
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A

SYNTHESIS OF ENERGETIC MATERIALS

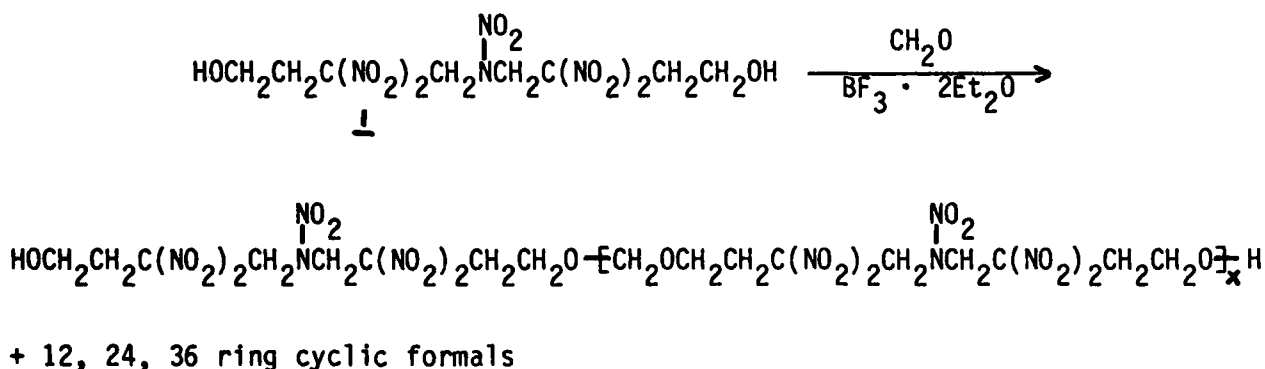
INTRODUCTION

The work described in this report, was carried out during 1983 under the sponsorship of the Office of Naval Research, Code 432 (Dr. R. S. Miller). The effort consisted of two separate tasks which will be discussed in turn: (1) synthesis of energetic monomers and polymers, and (2) synthesis of polycyclic and adamantoid nitramines. Both tasks were continuations of previous work, and pre-1983 results, were reported in ref. 1. The principal objectives of the work are the synthesis of energetic (nitro) polymers with improved energy and physical properties, specifically polyformals derived from nitro substituted diols, and the synthesis of nitramines with high crystal density and energy-density greater than HMX.

ENERGETIC POLYMER AND MONOMER SYNTHESIS

In continuation of the previous work¹ under this task, the formation of hydroxy-terminated polyformals from selected nitrodiols was investigated further.

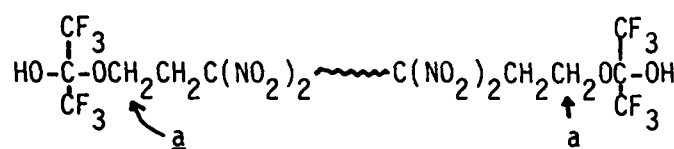
It had been shown in last year's work that 3,3,5,7,7-pentanitro-5-azanonanediol (1) on reaction with CH₂O/BF₃ etherate formed a mixture of linear and some cyclic polyformals, the former being hydroxy-terminated and thus cross-linkable with di/triisocyanates.



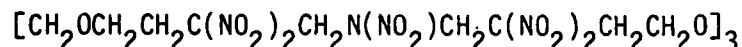
In view of its high energy content and good solubility in energetic plasticizers, this polyformal appeared of interest as a cast-curable binder component, and additional effort was expended on its synthesis and characterization as well as on the synthesis of the diol 1 and its precursors. Also investigated was the possibility of obtaining other diols and polyformals from the precursor to 1, 2,2-dinitro-1,4-butanediol-4-acetate.

To optimize the preparation of the polyformal of 1, the effects of varying the reaction solvent, monomer concentration, diol/formaldehyde ratio, and condensing agent type and amount were studied. It was found that sulfolane was the preferred solvent, and that high monomer concentration and diol:formaldehyde ratios of about 10:9 gave the best results in terms of

completeness of reaction, cyclic formal content, and polymer molecular weight. A typical run consists of reacting a solution of diol and trioxane in sulfolane (1g diol/ml sulfolane) with BF_3 etherate at ambient temperature for 16-20 hours. The reaction is carried out under nitrogen, but is not highly sensitive to the presence of moisture. Precipitation into methanol/water and trituration of the polymer with dichloromethane/hexane is used to remove sulfolane and reduce cyclic formal as well as low oligomer and monomer content. Polymer yields at this point ranged from 80-85%. It was shown that the mixture of unreacted monomer and low molecular weight formal is readily hydrolyzed (by heating with aq. MeOH/conc. HCl) to 1 which can be reused for polymer preparation. The purified polymer was characterized by GPC under standard conditions. The OH content was determined by NMR analysis of its hexafluoroacetone adduct and comparison of the terminal methylene signal (a) area with that of an internal standard. Table 1 summarizes conditions and



polymer data for a number of the runs made in this study. The weight fraction of polymers was calculated with the assumption that the non-functional component in the sample is the trimeric cyclic formal



as indicated by the GPC, and that the linear component is hydroxy-terminated and difunctional. The corrected molecular weights and poly-dispersity refer to this linear component. The GPCs of runs 45/5 and 49/4 are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

Run #49/4 was scaled up to the 10 g level without difficulty, except that a larger amount of trioxane was inadvertently used. Not unexpectedly, this resulted in a polymer of higher molecular weight and greater cyclic formal content ($\approx 20\%$). This material was still soluble in FEFO (polymer:plasticizer ratio 1:2), and the solution was shown to be cross-linkable with PAPI-135 using dibutyltin dilaurate as catalyst. The gumstock had good strength and elongation. Unlike an earlier gumstock, however, it contained some bubbles. These are believed to be caused by the excess formaldehyde not removed completely during the purification of the polymer. This run will be repeated using appropriate amounts of formaldehyde and a modified washing procedure (addition of H_2O_2) to destroy unreacted formaldehyde.

Attempts were made also to improve and simplify the preparation of the monomer 1 whose synthesis was described in an earlier report.² Using as previously 2,2-dinitro-1,4-butanediol-4-acetate 2 as intermediate, the Mannich reaction of the 4-acetate to give the azanonanediol diacetate was improved to a 92-95% yield; the nitration and hydrolysis give 95%+ yields, also. Thus, this part of the synthesis of 1 is well in hand.

TABLE 1. PREPARATIONS OF POLYFORMAL OF 1 ON 1 G SCALE IN SULFOLANE

Run #5	ml Solvent	mg CH ₂ O	Molecular Weight (by GPC) M_n	Equivalent Weight (NMR)	Weight Fraction Polymer	Corrected Molecular Weight $\frac{M_w}{M_n}$	D (M_w/M_n)
45/3	1.5	77.5	2045	1248	0.89	3519 2232	1.58
45/5	1.5	72.5	2040	1282	0.88	3686 2252	1.64
45/7	1.5	62.0	1318	--	--	--	--
49/1	1.5	66.6	1673	1146	0.81	2906 1850	1.57
49/3	1	66.6	1610	883	0.94	2595 1645	1.58
49/4	1	69.9	1720	963	0.93	2838 1790	1.58
49/5	1	72.5	1690	1034	0.87	2879 1800	1.60
49/6	1	75.0	1775	995	0.93	2993 1847	1.62

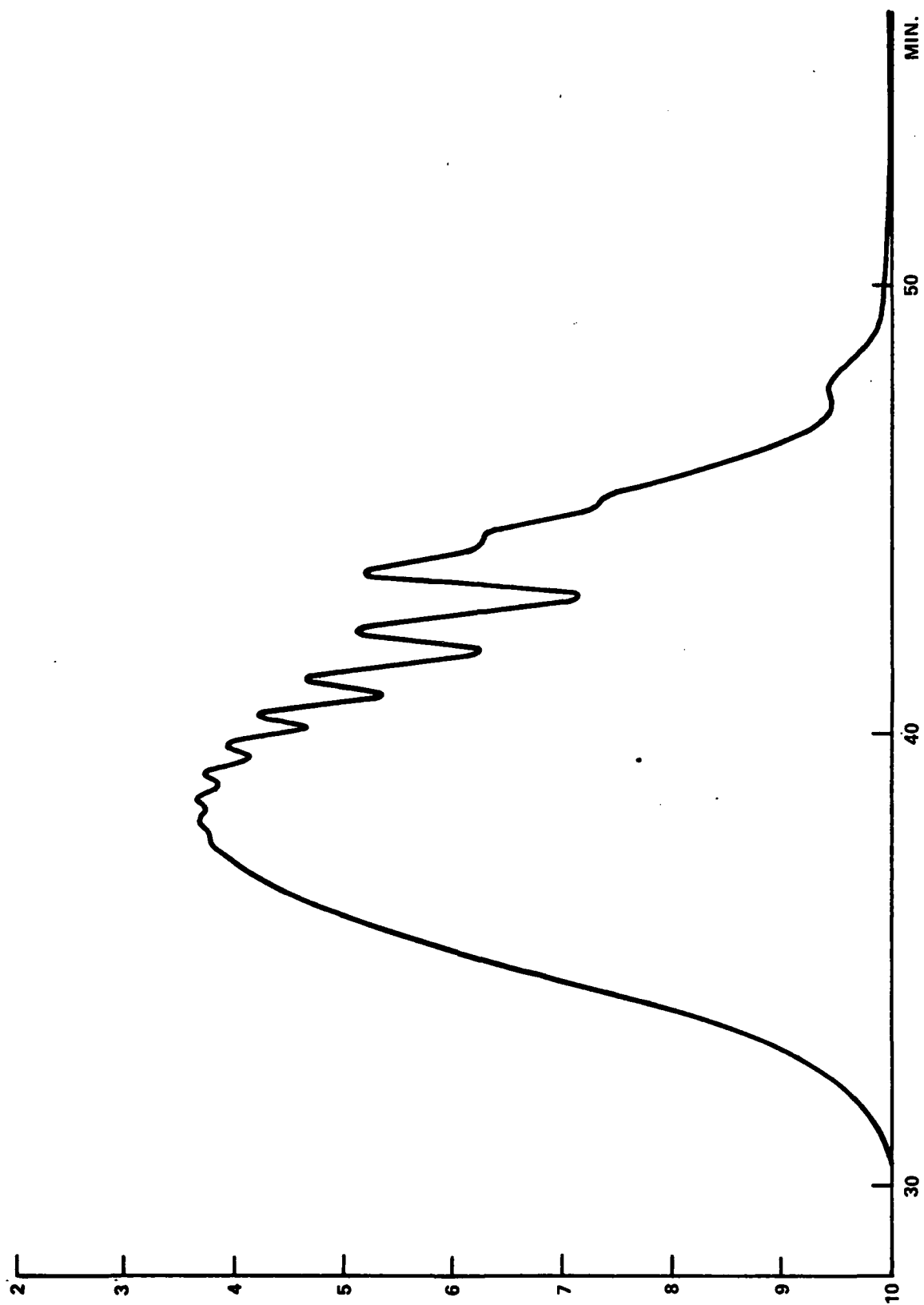


FIGURE 1. GP CHROMATOGRAM OF POLYFORMAL OF 1; RUN 45/5

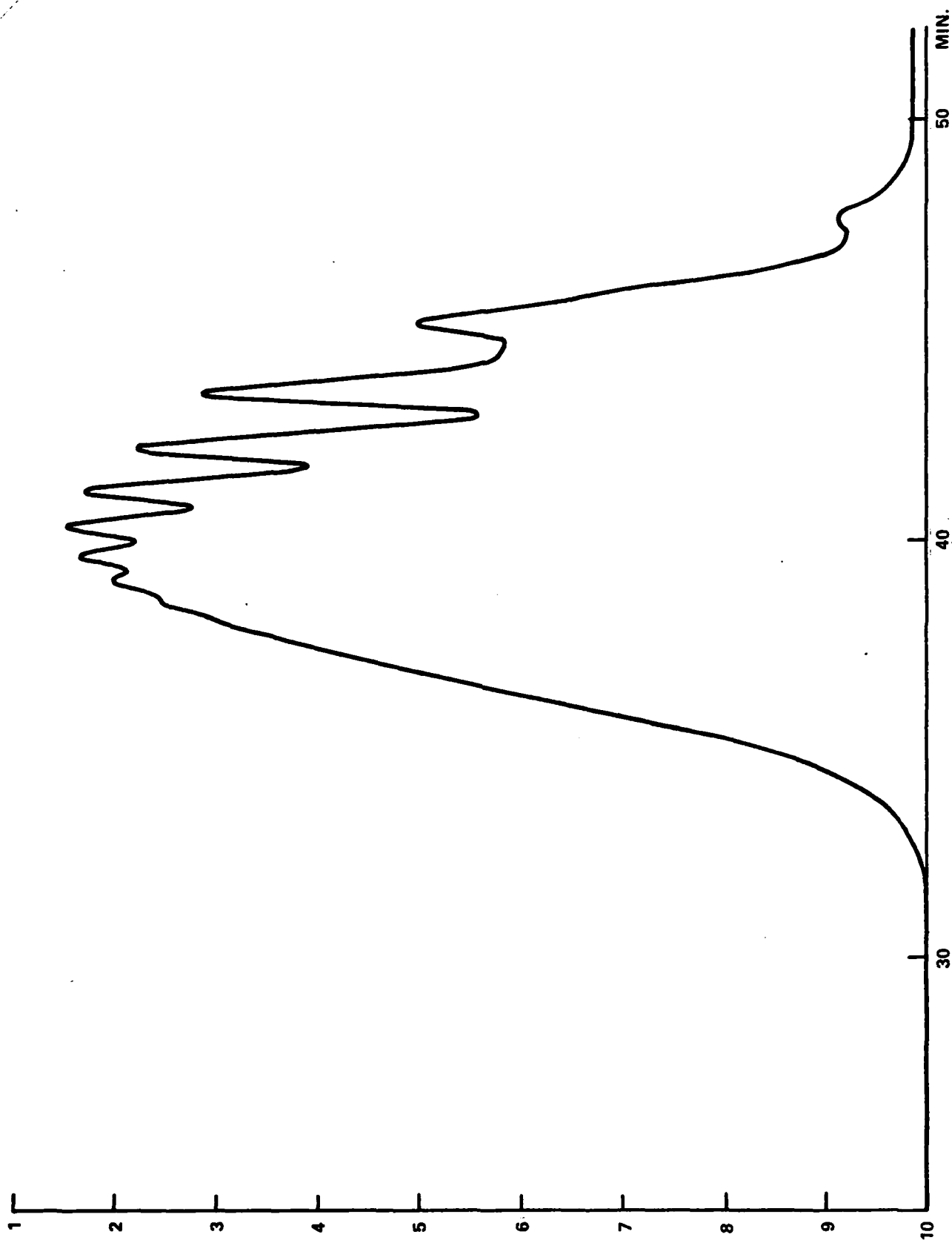
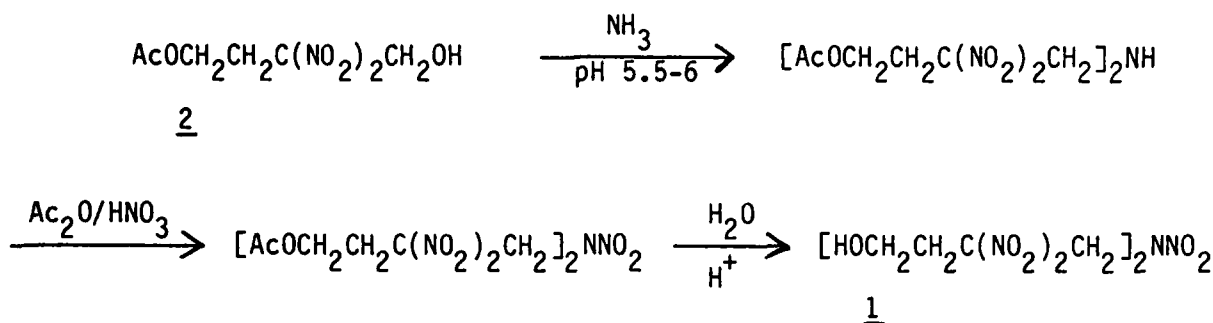
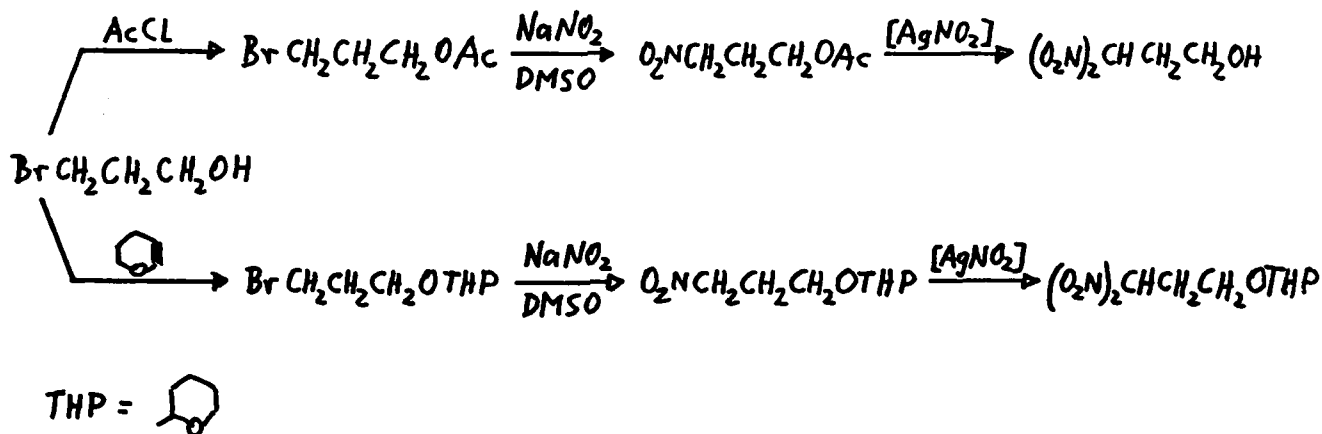


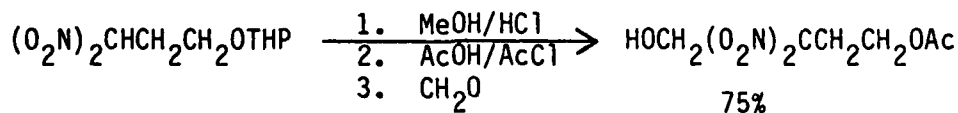
FIGURE 2. GPC CHROMATOGRAM OF POLYFORMAL OF 1; RUN 49/4



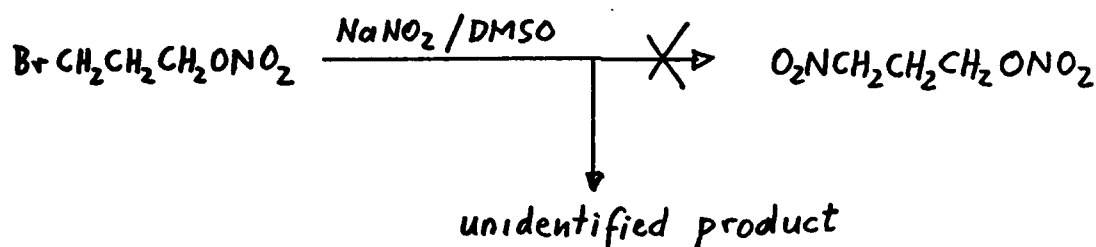
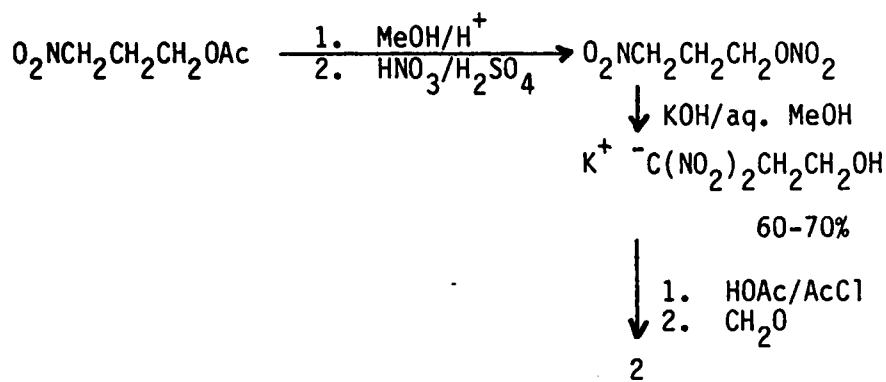
Considerable effort was expended on working out a simpler synthesis for the mono-acetylated 2,2-dinitro-1,4-butanediol. The acetate and tetrahydropyranyl ether of commercially available 3-bromopropanol were converted to the corresponding 3-nitro compounds by a slight modification of the Kornblum synthesis. This was followed by oxidative nitration to 3,3-dinitro compounds. The yields in both steps are near 60% for the tetrahydropyranyl derivative, and further improvements are believed possible. The acetate, on the other hand, gave de-protected 3,3-dinitropropanol in low yield in the oxidative nitration.



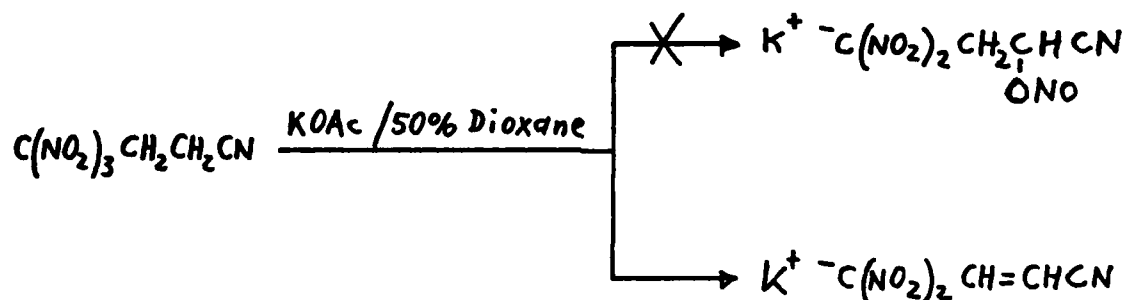
A method for the conversion of the tetrahydropyranyl ether to 2 has been worked out.

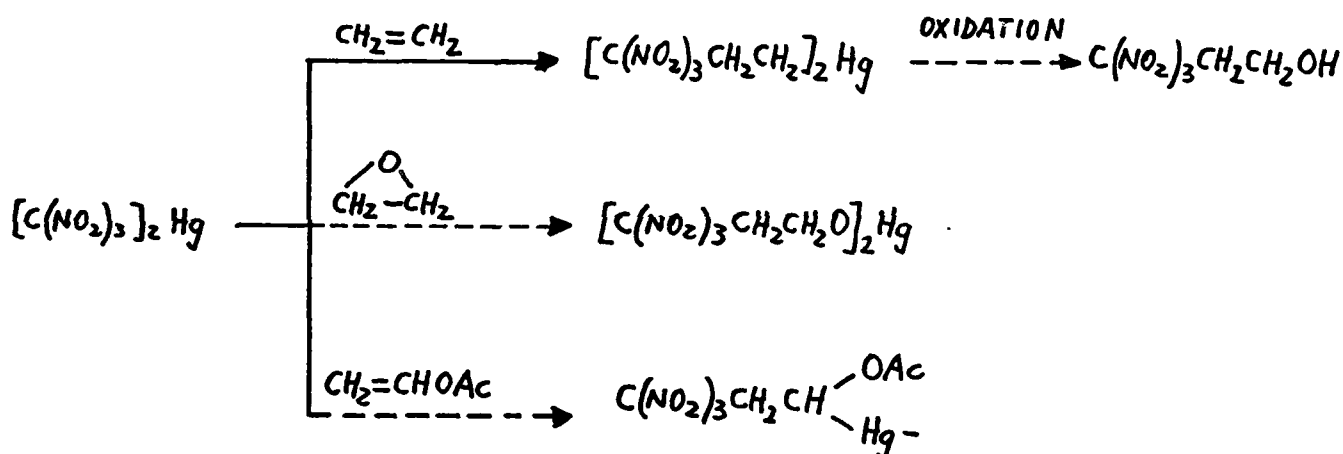
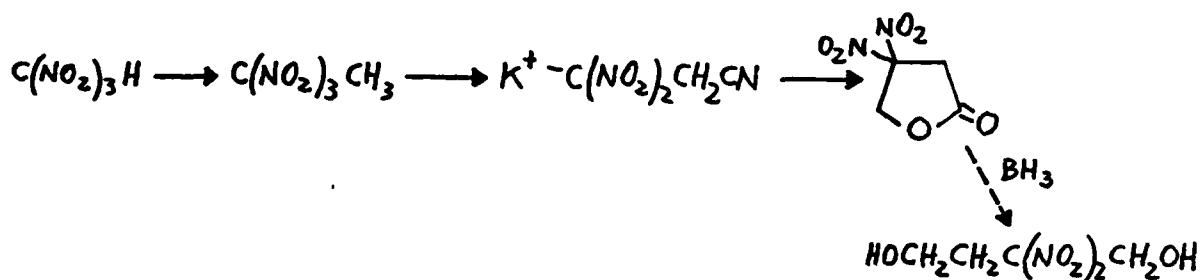
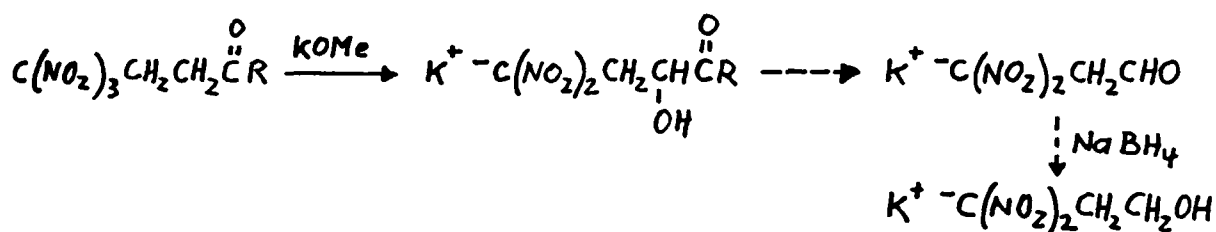


An alternative, probably more advantageous synthesis of 2 via 3,3-dinitropropanol as shown below eliminates the need for the oxidative nitration step. At present, the required 3-nitropropyl nitrate is prepared from the acetate in two steps, as the attempted direct synthesis from 3-bromopropyl nitrate gave a different, not yet identified product.

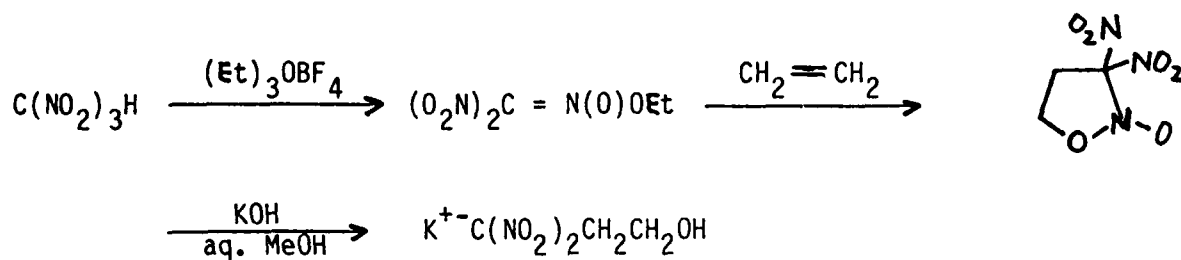


Several other routes to 2,2-dinitro-1,4-butanediol starting from nitroform have been or are being investigated. 4,4,4-trinitrobutyronitrile can reportedly be converted to 3,3-dinitropropionaldehyde,³ but we were unable to repeat this reaction. However, 5,5,5-trinitro-2-pentanone and 4,4,4-trinitrobutyrate give dinitrohydroxycarbonyl compounds on treatment with base,⁴ and these should be convertible to 3,3-dinitropropionaldehyde and 3,3-dinitropropanol by known procedures. Another route from nitroform proceeds via trinitroethane, 3,3-dinitropropionitrile, and 3,3-dinitrobutyrolactone, which should be reducible to 2,2-dinitro-1,4-butanediol. Also under investigation are potentially short routes involving addition of mercuric nitroform to ethylene, ethylene oxide, or vinyl acetate. These reactions are summarized in the equations shown below.

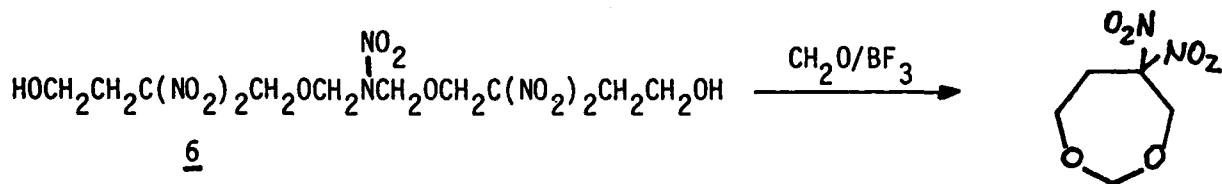
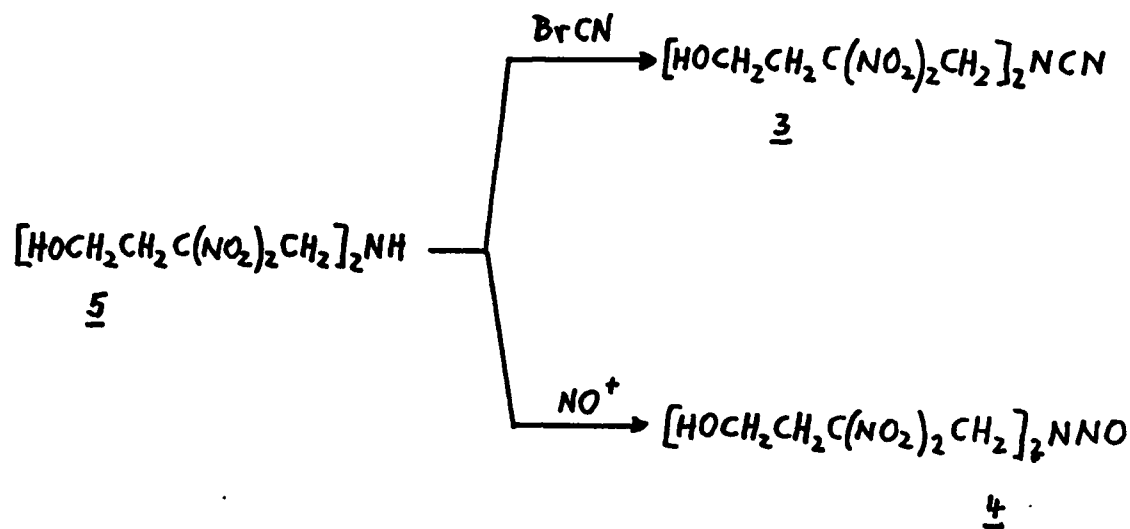




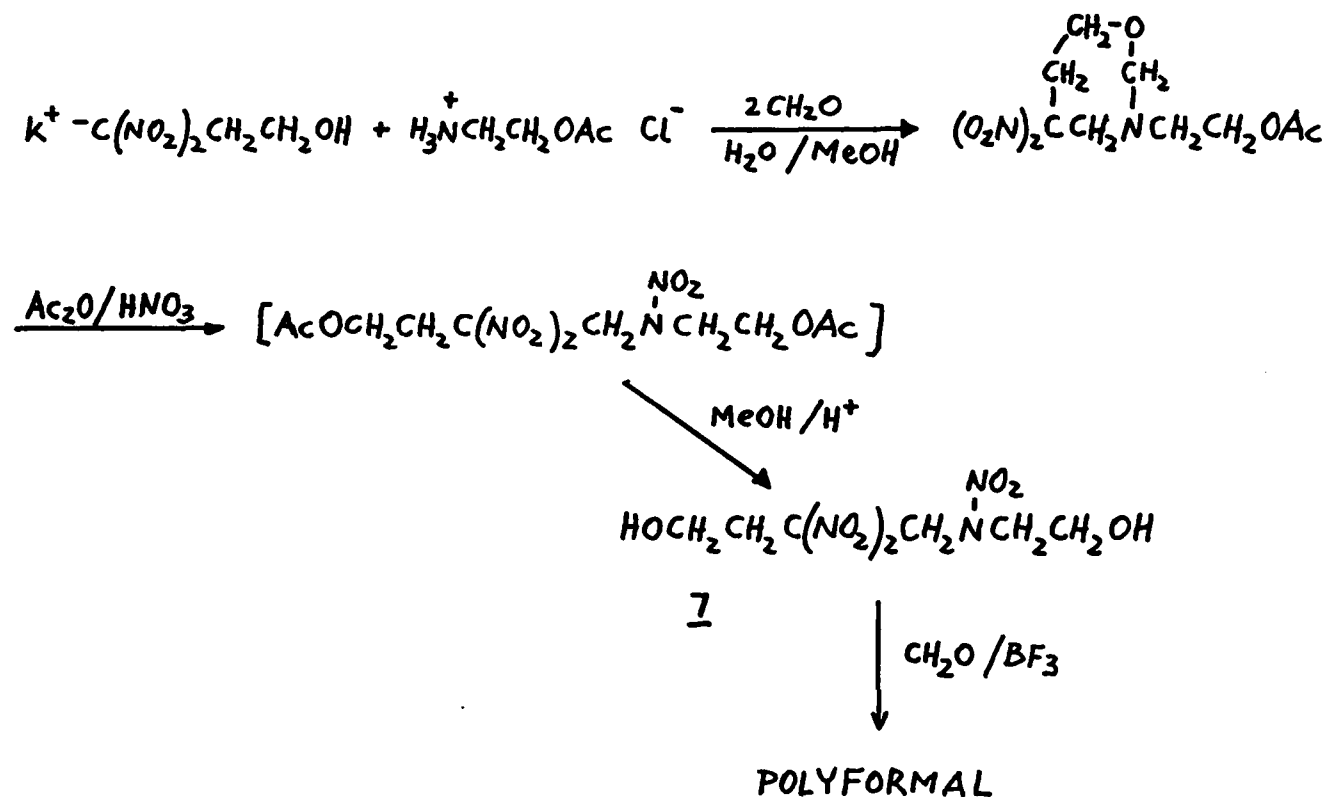
Another potentially simple route to 3,3-dinitropropanol has recently come to our attention, but has not yet been tried. The individual steps are in the Russian literature, in part without experimental details.



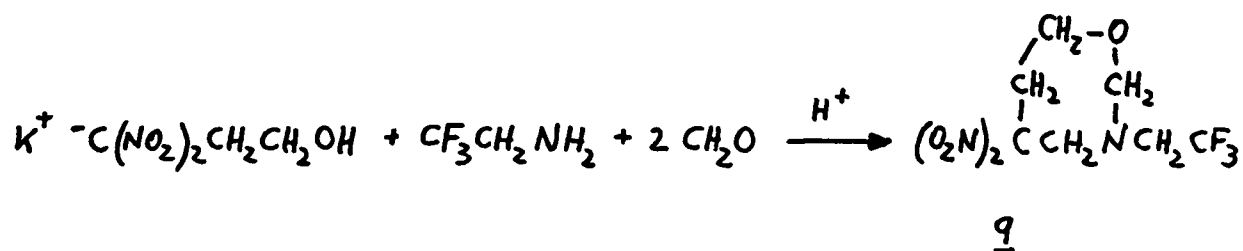
Several other diols derived from 2 which are of interest as building blocks for polyformals have been considered or synthesized. These include diols 3 and 4, which are closely related to 1 and can be prepared from the common intermediate 5. Diol 6 was synthesized under another task; on reaction with $\text{CH}_2\text{O}/\text{BF}_3$ etherate in sulfolane it underwent cleavage at an internal C-O bond to give a cyclic formal.

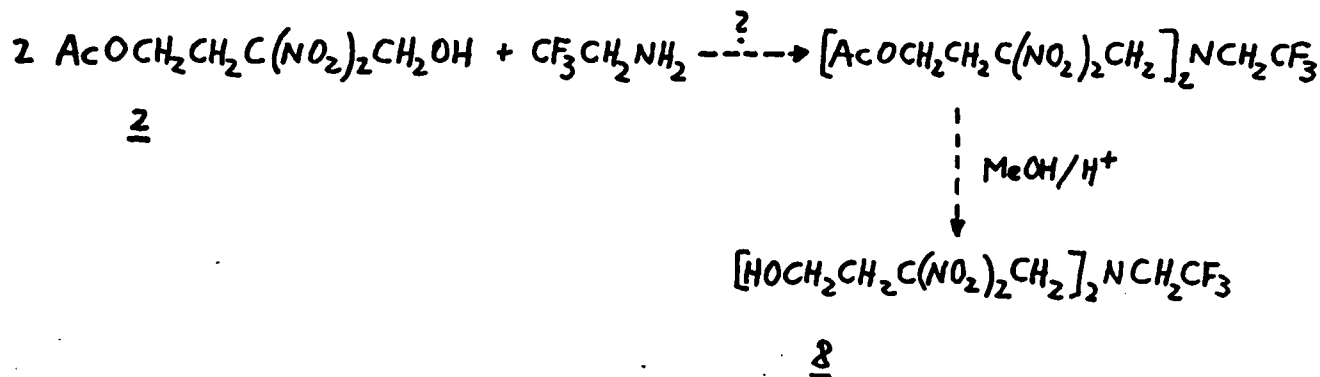


Diol 7 was synthesized from potassium 3,3-dinitroethanol and aminoethanol acetate hydrochloride via Mannich condensation followed by nitrolysis and hydrolysis. Its reaction with $\text{CH}_2\text{O}/\text{BF}_3$ in sulfolane etherate gave a polyformal.

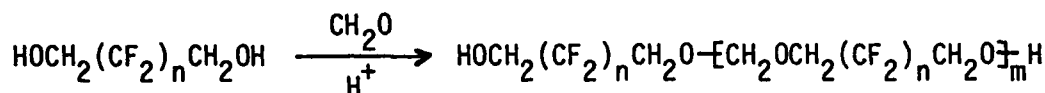


Preliminary efforts have been made to synthesize diol 8. The reaction of potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol with trifluoroethylamine gave only 9; however, the corresponding reaction with 2 appears more promising.





Also in the preliminary stage is an attempt to prepare polyformals from the fluorodiols 10 and 11. 10 is commercially available whereas 11 must be prepared from the corresponding dicarboxylic acid. So far, the reaction of 10 with $\text{CH}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ has given a low yield (20%) of a polyformal which is liquid and readily soluble in FEFO.

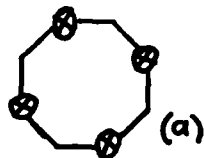


10: $n = 3$

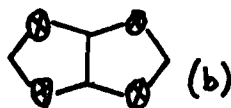
11: $n = 4$

SYNTHESIS OF POTENTIALLY DENSE NITRAMINES

As outlined previously,² cyclic and polycyclic nitramines of the type (b) - (f) have calculated densities sufficiently higher than the calculated density of HMX to make such structures candidates for high energy-density explosives with predicted detonation pressures in the range of 420-470 Kbar. The first set of density values shown are for the all-nitramines, whereas the numbers in parentheses are for compounds in which half of the nitraza groups are replaced by gem-dinitro. Note the trend to higher densities with increasing number of rings in the molecule, and the increasing density difference between all-nitramine and mixed nitraza/gem dinitro compounds.



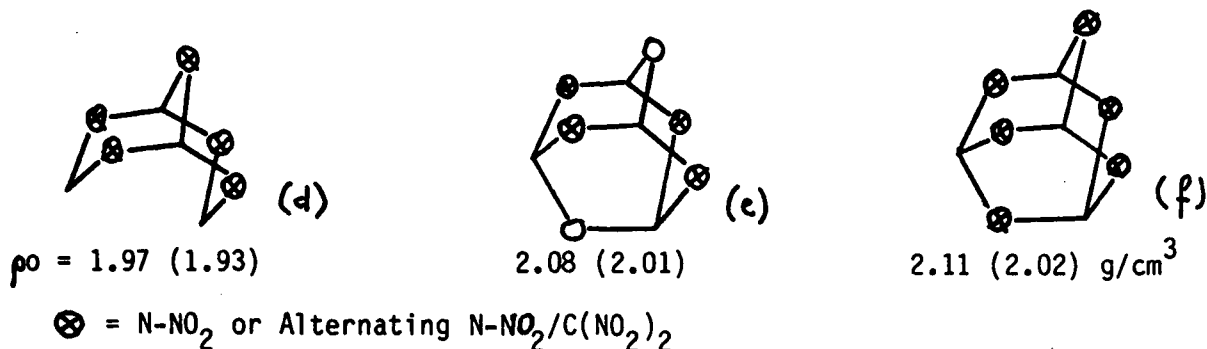
$\rho_0 = 1.79$ (1.79)



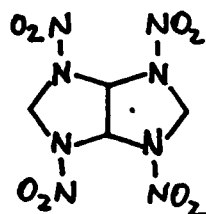
1.91 (1.88)



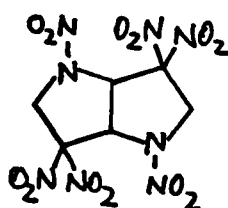
2.05 (1.98) g/cm^3



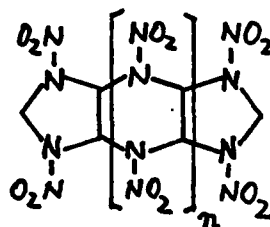
During 1983 the previously initiated effort toward the synthesis of compounds of type (b), specifically bicyclo-HMX, 12, the analog 13, and the linear polycyclic compounds 14 and 15, was continued. In addition, the synthesis and chemistry of potential precursors to structures (d) - (f) was studied.



12



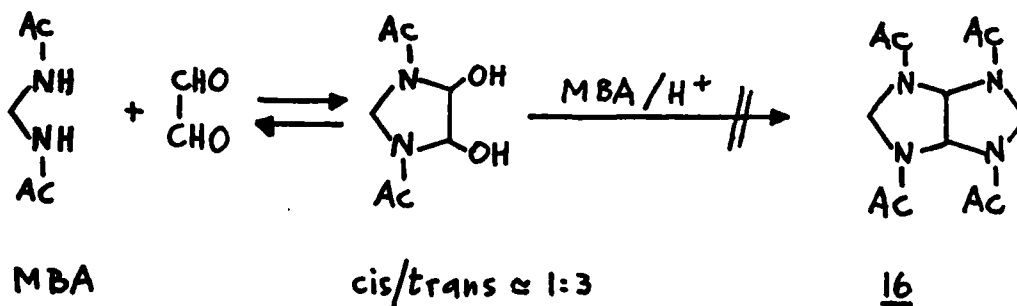
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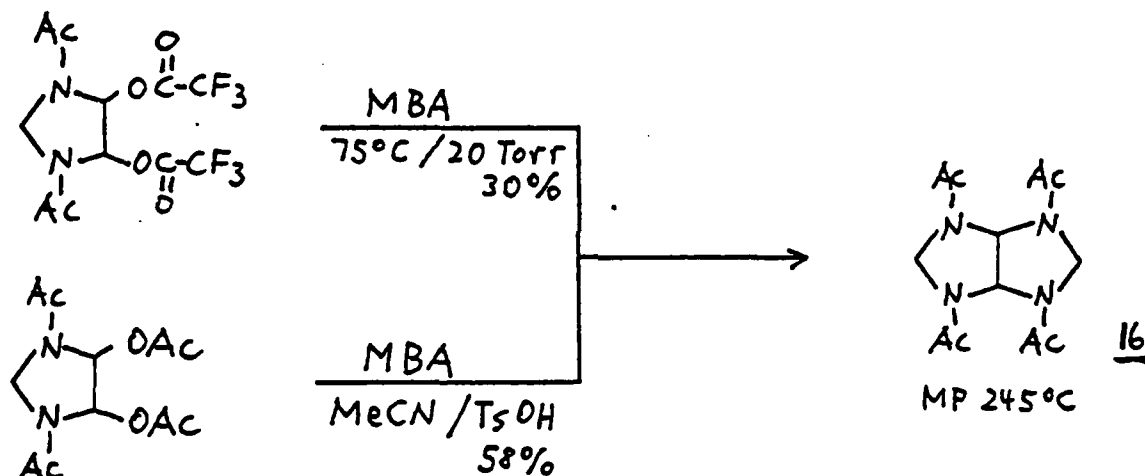
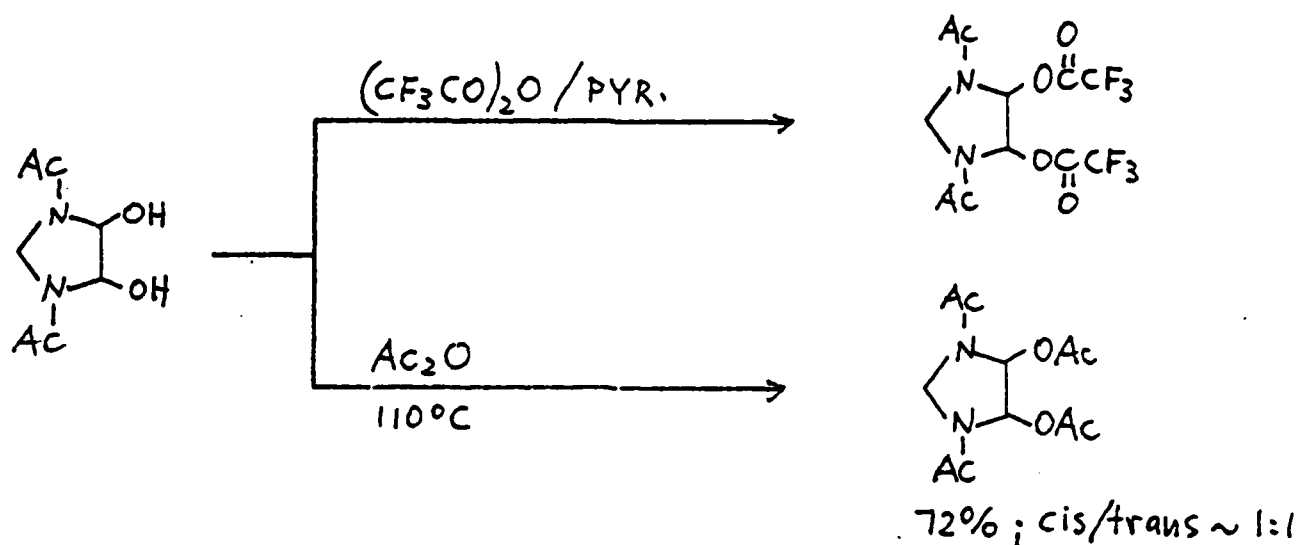


14: n=1 ρ_0 (calc'd) 1.95

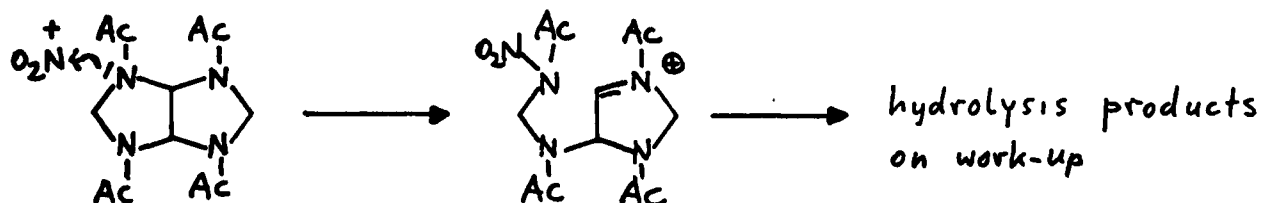
15: n=2 " " 1.96

The efforts toward the synthesis of bicyclo-HMX focused on the preparation and nitrolysis of 2,4,6,8-tetraacetyl-2,4,6,8-tetrazabicyclo-[3.3.0]octane, 16. While 16 could not be obtained by condensation of unprotected diacetyl dihydroxyimidazolidine with methylene-bis-acetamide (MBA), probably because of thermal fragmentation of the former, the diacetate and ditrifluoroacetate both condensed readily with MBA to give 16 in 72% and 30% yields, respectively.





It was hoped that **16** would be amenable to nitrolysis to give bicyclo-HMX (**12**), and considerable effort was expended to achieve this transformation. The reagents and conditions tried are summarized below. In no case was a solid reaction product obtained although **16** had been consumed under most conditions. A possible explanation for this apparent failure of **16** to undergo acid nitrolysis in the desired fashion is ring-opening after initial quarterization of a ring nitrogen, a necessary first step in any nitrolysis process:



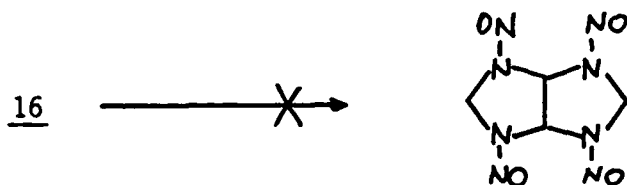
Attempted Nitrolysis of 16 to 12:

<u>Reagent/Conditions</u>	<u>Result</u>
100% HNO ₃ /r.t./30 min.	Water-soluble oil + starting material
100% HNO ₃ /r.t./18 hr.	Water-soluble oil
100% HNO ₃ /Ac ₂ O/r.t./18 hr.	Water-soluble oil
100% HNO ₃ /conc. H ₂ SO ₄ /r.t./20 hr.	Water-soluble oil
100% HNO ₃ /CF ₃ SO ₃ H/CH ₂ Cl ₂ /0°/10 min.	Brown gum
100% HNO ₃ /CF ₃ SO ₃ H/CH ₂ Cl ₂ /r.t./30 min.	Brown gum
100% HNO ₃ / $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \\ (\text{CF}_3\text{C})_2\text{O} \end{array}$ /r.t./3 hr.	Starting material and water-soluble oils
100% HNO ₃ / $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \\ (\text{CF}_3\text{C})_2\text{O} \end{array}$ /r.t./16 hr.	Polymer + water-soluble oils
100% HNO ₃ /(CF ₃ SO) ₂ O/r.t./17 hr.	Water-soluble solid + oils
NO ₂ BF ₄ /MeCN/-30°C/5 min.	Starting material + water-soluble oil
NO ₂ BF ₄ /MeCN/r.t./30 min.	Starting material + water-soluble oil
NO ₂ BF ₄ /MeCN/reflux/5 min.	Black tar

The ring-opening of 16 is undoubtedly aided by the presence of considerable ring strain. We currently believe that this may be an insurmountable obstacle and have abandoned reactions with 16 which would involve initial electrophilic attack on a nitrogen.

Other attempts to utilize 16 as an intermediate to 12 involved initial reaction at the carbonyl group of 16. These reactions, which are listed in the following schemes, were also unsuccessful.

(a) Hydrolysis-Nitrosation:



Reagent/Conditions

Result

H₂O/K₂CO₃/(KSO₃)₂NO

Some starting material recovered; water-soluble products

H₂O/NaOH/(KSO₃)₂NO
3 days, r.t.

Some MBA and water-soluble products

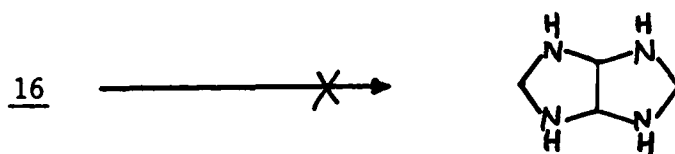
H₂O/Na₂O₂/NO
3 days, r.t.

MBA isolated

H₂O/NaOH/NO, Air
4 hr., r.t.

Water-soluble products

(b) Reduction:



Reagent/Conditions

Result

AlHg/H₂O, r.t., 1 hr.

No reaction

Ca or Li/NH₃ (liq.)
-33°C, 2 hr.

Some starting material + water-soluble amorphous polymer

LiAlH(OEt)₃/THF
reflux, 1 hr.

Water-soluble products and polymer;
NMR complex

LiAlH₄/ether/r.t., 4 hr.

Water-soluble products and polymer

LiAlH₄/THF/reflux, 1 hr.

polymer + small amount

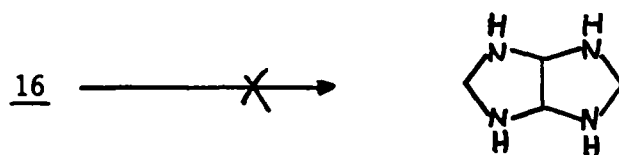
CH₃MgCl/THF/r.t., 4 hr.

Some starting material + water-soluble oil

n-BuLi/THF/r.t., 24 hr.

Starting material + oil + NH₃

(c) Hydrolysis/Ammonolysis:



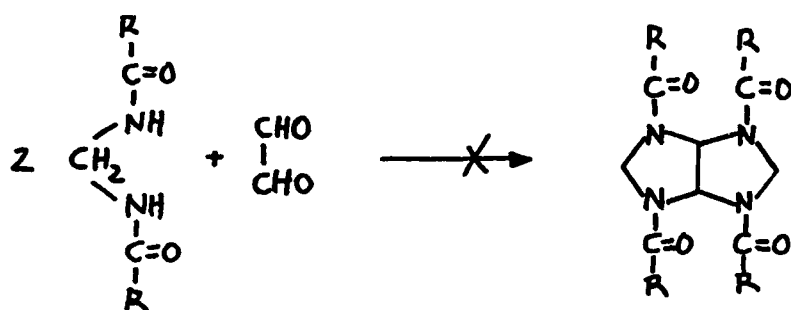
Reagent/Conditions

Results

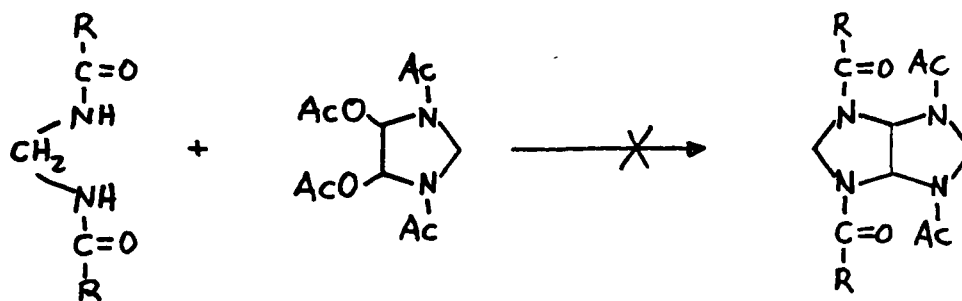
NaOH/H ₂ O/r.t., 18 hr.	Water-soluble oil (NH ₃)
K ₂ CO ₃ /H ₂ O/reflux, 2 hr.	Water-soluble oil (NMR complex)
KOH/DMSO/H ₂ O/r.t.	Water-soluble products (NH ₃)
NH ₃ aq./r.t., 18 hr.	No reaction
NH ₃ /MeOH/r.t.	No reaction
NH ₂ NH ₂ /H ₂ O/reflux, 17 hr.	red water-soluble oil (NMR complex)

The failure of these reactions may indicate that the tetrazabicyclooctane ring of 12 is not stable when one or more unsubstituted NH moieties are present, again probably due to the presence of ring strain.

A number of attempts were made to synthesize analogs of 16 which would be less susceptible to ring cleavage, or which would permit a different approach to introduction of nitro groups. These included condensation reactions of several methylene-bis-amides with glyoxal and 4,5-diacetoxy-1,3-diacetyl-imidazolidine, all of which were unsuccessful:



R = SEt, $\text{OCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$

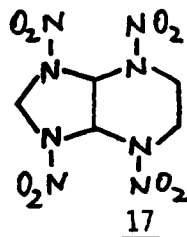


R = SEt, $\text{OCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$

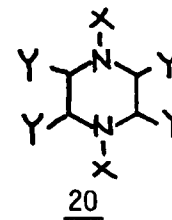
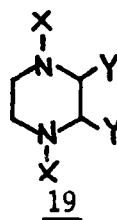
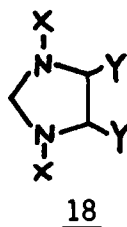
Details of reaction conditions are given in the experimental section.

A positive result from the above efforts is that a crystal density and structure of 16 has been obtained⁵ which allows a more direct estimation of the density of bicyclo-HMX. The observed density of 16 is 1.37 and 1.38 g/cm³ (2 polymorphs) vs. 1.34 g/cm³ predicted by Holden's method.⁶ Holden calculates a density of 1.91 g/cm³ for bicyclo-HMX. Its actual density, therefore, may well be higher than that of HMX, and the compound remains a viable synthesis target.

In view of the difficulties encountered in the synthesis of the 2,4,6,8-tetrazabicyclooctane ring system and its chemical modification at the nitrogens, the effort was redirected toward the synthesis of the bicyclononane ring system 17 and compounds 14 and 15 derived from it. It was hoped that the 5 + 6 ring combination would be easier to assemble than the highly strained

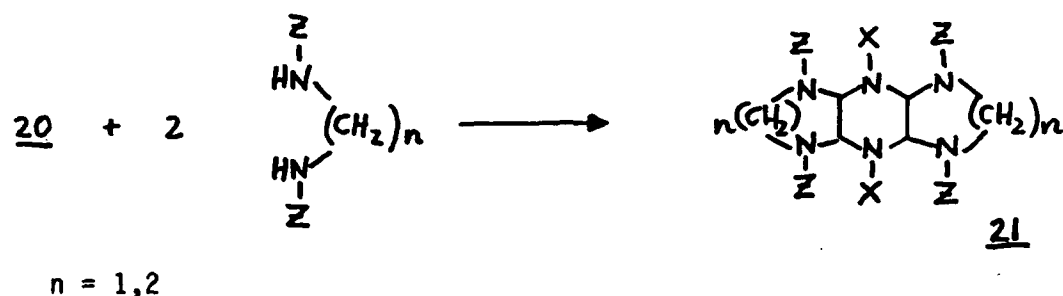


5 + 5 system in 16 and its analogs. As possible precursors to 14, 15, and 17, compounds of the type 18, 19, and 20 were sought,

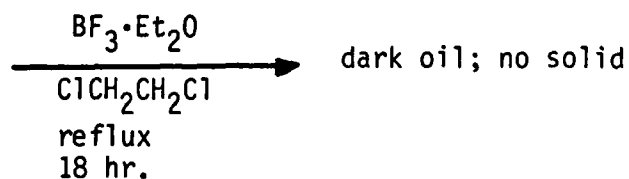
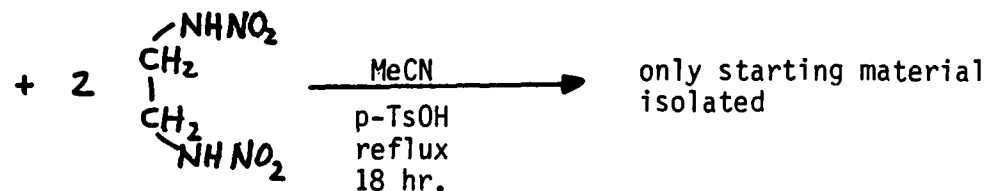
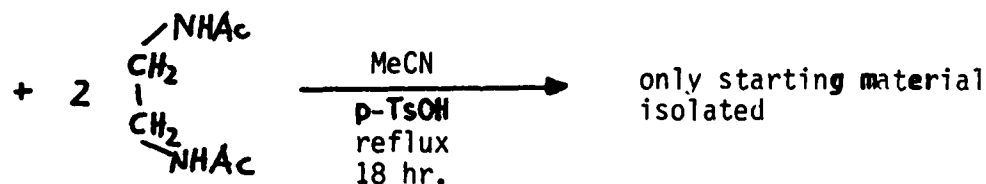
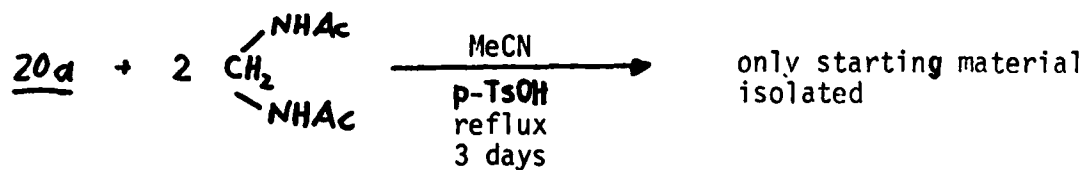


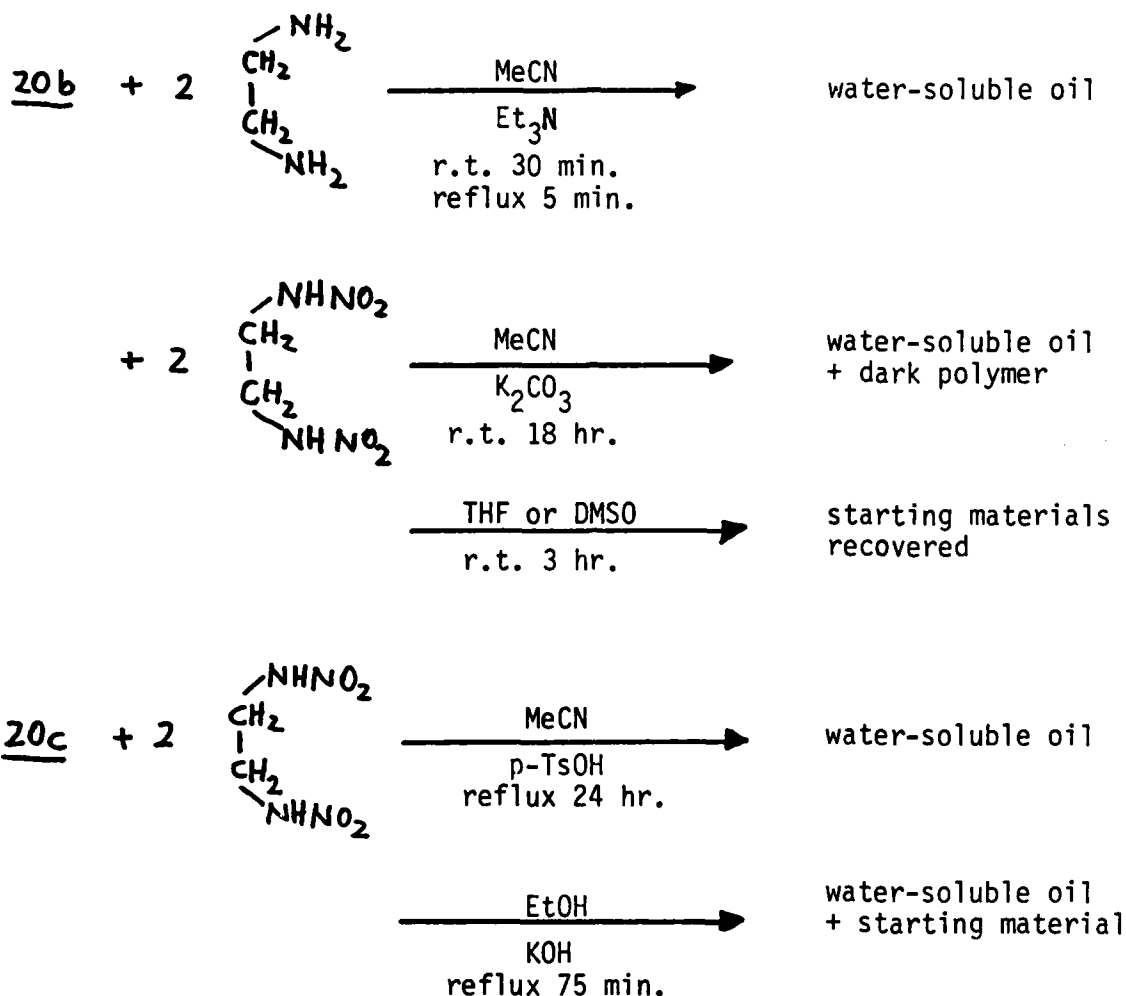
especially those with X = NO₂. 20 (X = CHO, Y = OAc, Cl, ONO₂) had been previously reported.⁷ Attempts to convert 20c (X = CHO, Y = ONO₂) to the corresponding nitramine (X = NO₂) were not successful. Therefore,

condensation reactions of 20a (Y = OAc), 20b (Y = Cl), and 20c with methylene and ethylene-bis-amides were studied aimed at the synthesis of hexaazatricyclododecanes and tetradecanes 21.



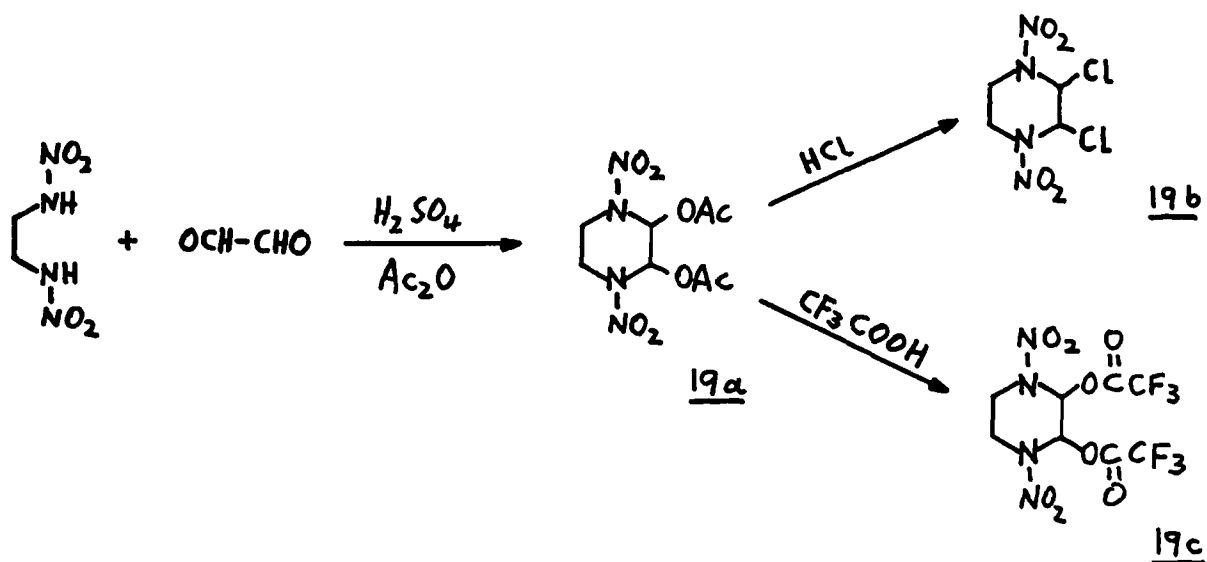
The following reactions were carried out:





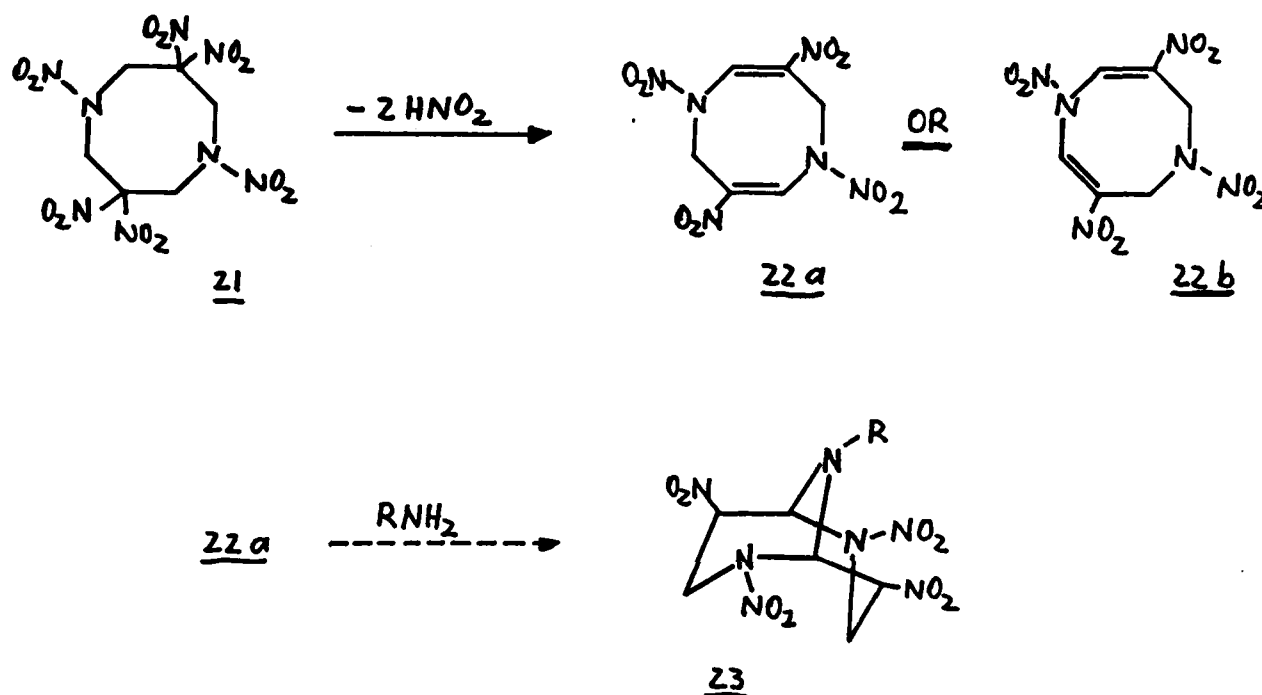
No explanation can be given at present for the failure of these reactions.

Compounds 19 were obtained by the following sequence:



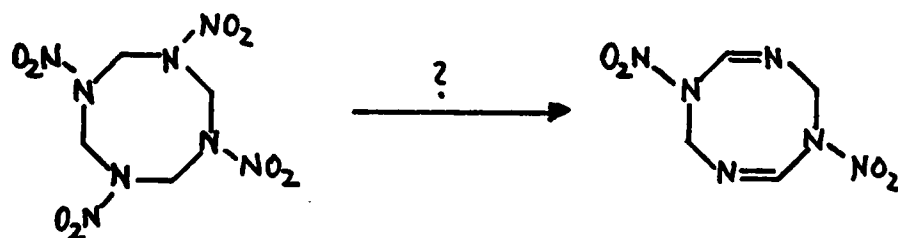
Condensation reactions of 19a-c leading to 17 are currently under investigation.

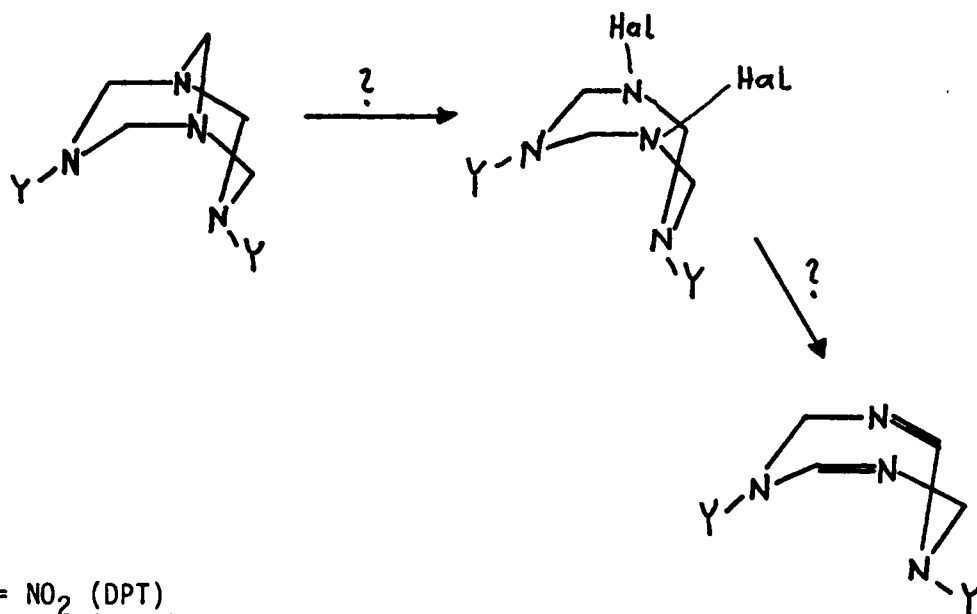
Towards the synthesis of compounds of the type (d) - (f), we have initiated a study of the reaction of the perhydrodiazocine 21 with bases and nucleophiles to determine if the tetrahydrodiazocines 22 can be generated. These species should be capable of undergoing transannular addition reactions leading to the bicyclononadiene ring system 23. Nitrolysis



and nitration could lead to heptanitrotriazabicyclononane in several steps. 21 was found to be extremely reactive with all bases and nucleophiles tried except chloride ion. However, no pure reaction products have been isolated as yet.

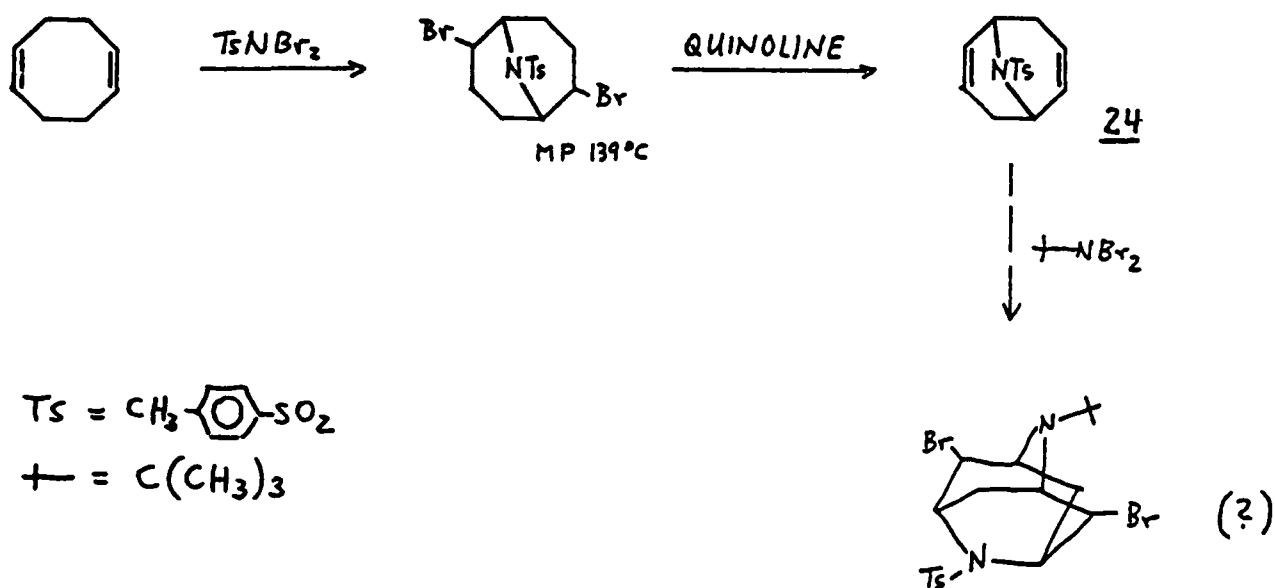
Similar elimination reactions are being attempted with HMX, and N-halo derivatives of DPT and DAPT.

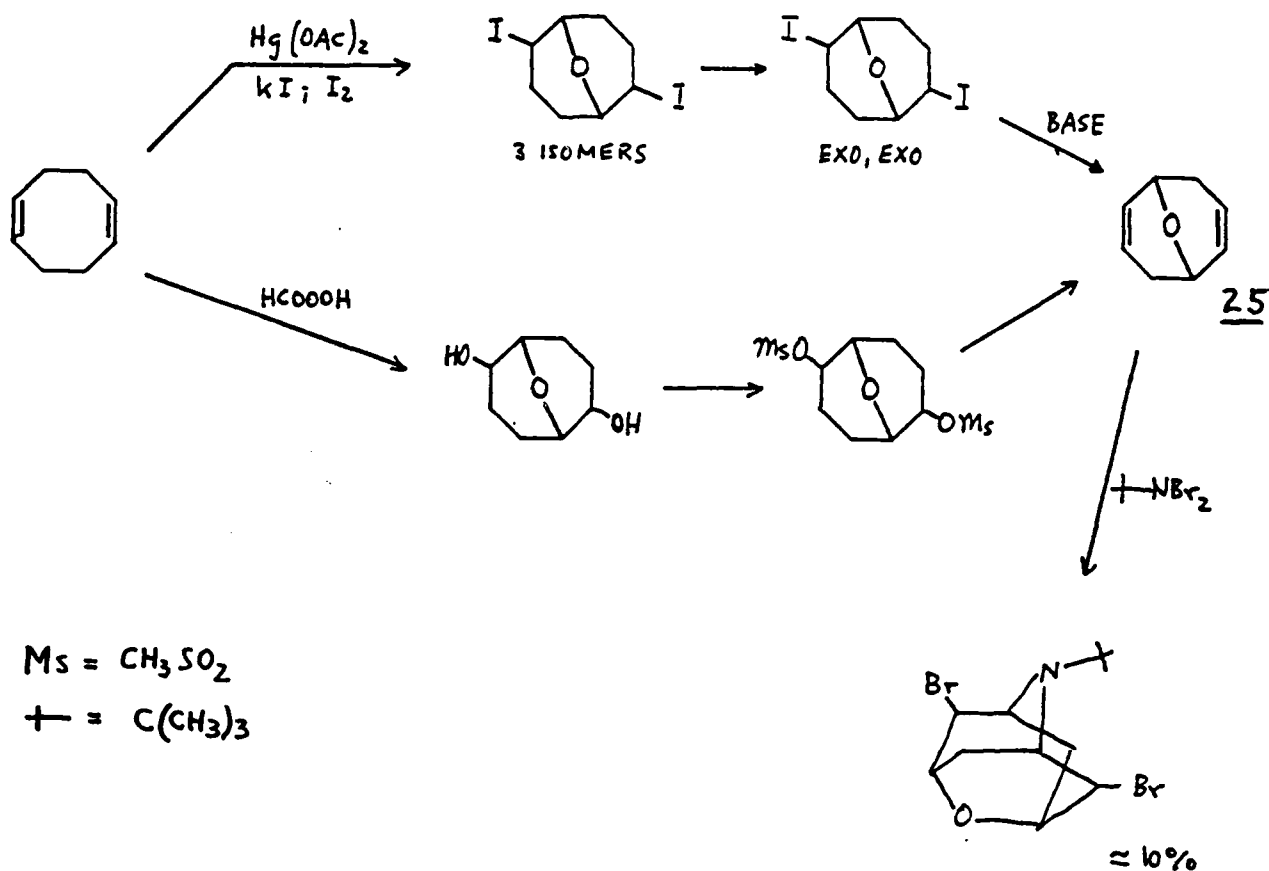




Y = NO₂ (DPT)
Ac (DAPT)

We reported previously¹ on efforts to synthesize diaza- and oxaazadamantanes starting from cyclooctadiene. In this work the addition of N,N-dibromo-tert-butylamine to compounds 24 and 25 was studied further. It is believed that the desired addition reactions occur in low yield, but the products are mixtures of stereoisomers which have not yet been separated.





EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Melting points are uncorrected; temperatures are in $^{\circ}\text{C}$ unless noted otherwise. Microanalyses are by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, Tennessee. NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian EM-390 spectrometer; chemical shifts are in ppm relative to TMS as internal standard.

Polyformal of 1; Run 49/4. In a 15 ml three-neck flask, protected from moisture by a nitrogen atmosphere, 1 g diol 1 and 1 ml sulfolane were stirred until homogeneous. 69.9 mg trioxane was added and the mixture was again stirred until homogeneous. The solution was cooled in an ice bath, and 0.75 ml BF_3 etherate was added dropwise with stirring. Cooling was stopped and stirring continued for 20 hours. The mixture was diluted with 10 ml dichloromethane, poured into a solution of 0.9 g NaHCO_3 in 30 ml water, and this was agitated for 3 hours. The phases were separated; the organic layer was dried (MgSO_4) and stripped. The residue was mixed with 1.5 ml MeOH and added dropwise to a vigorously stirred mixture of 9 ml water and 4.5 ml MeOH. Stirring was continued until the liquid was clear; it was poured off and the precipitated polymer allowed to stand under 50 ml water overnight. The water was decanted and the polymer dissolved in 10 ml 1:1 dichloromethane/methyl acetate, the solution dried and stripped at 45°C for 4 hours. The residue was triturated overnight with a mixture of 13 ml dichloromethane and 8 ml hexane in a stoppered flask. After decanting the

solvent, the polymer was dried in vacuo. The weight of product ranged from 0.8 to 0.9 g.

Gel Permeation Chromatography, General Procedure. Analyses were performed using a Waters Model 6000A solvent delivery system and Model 440 ultraviolet (UV) absorbance detector operating at a wavelength of 254 nm. Two Varian Micropak TSK 3000H size exclusion columns were used: one 30 cm in length and the other 50 cm in length. The inside diameter of both columns was 0.75 cm. The packing pore size was 1500Å. The eluant was deaerated Burdick & Jackson tetrahydrofuran with water content less than 0.01% in order to maximize peak resolution. Solvent flow rate was nominally 0.5 ml/min also to maximize peak resolution. Chart speed was 1.0 cm/min. Data were collected by a Digital MINC microcomputer using a Chromatix CMX-10 dual channel interface module. Data reduction was performed with the Chromatix GPC2 software package. The sample (25-50 mg) was dissolved in 5 ml deaerated tetrahydrofuran, and 10 µl aliquot was injected with a M6K liquid chromatograph injector.

Determination of Hydroxyl Content for Polyformal of 1. Equivalent weights of polymer samples were determined using a Varian XL-200 fourier transform nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer according to the following procedure:

Known amounts of polymer (~50 mg) and trinitrobenzene (TNB) (~10 mg), which was used as an internal standard, were weighed into an NMR tube. Precision of weighing was to five decimal places to ensure adequate analytical reproducibility. 1 ml CD₃CN was added and the polymer was allowed to dissolve. Hexafluoroacetone was bubbled into the solution through a syringe needle for 2-4 minutes to achieve complete reaction of the polymer hydroxy groups. The terminal methylene groups were separated from the other methylene groups by this reaction and exhibited an isolated triplet at δ 4.07 ppm. This was integrated against the standard signal at δ 9.20 ppm.

Equivalent weights were then calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{Eq. wt.} = 142 \times \frac{\text{wt. polymer}}{\text{wt. TNB}} \times \frac{I(\text{TNB})}{I(\text{polymer})}$$

where I ≡ relative integration.

Curing Procedure for Polyformal of 1. To 4 g of a degassed solution of 1 part polymer and 2 parts FEFO was added 0.003 g dibutyl dilaurate; the mixture was stirred with a glass rod to solution, 0.1528 g PAPI 135 was added, and the mixture stirred again until homogeneous. The solution was degassed 30 minutes at 50°C and ≈1 Torr and then cured at 55°C. A well-cured gumstock was obtained after 36 hours. Some gas pockets were present in the gumstock.

3,3,7,7-Tetranitro-5-azanonane-1,9-diol diacetate. The procedure of ref. 2 was improved by more vigorous stirring and the use of a longer reaction time to allow all of the starting material to react. The product was obtained as a crystalline powder in 92% yield. Chilling of the crystallization mother liquor gave a semi-solid from which, by triturating with water, a second crop of product was obtained, bringing the total yield to 95%.

3-Nitropropyl Acetate. 167.0 g distilled 3-bromopropyl acetate was added to a well-stirred (mechanical stirrer) solution of 110.7 g sodium nitrite in 52 ml water and 640 ml DMSO. The mixture was stirred at $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. After 2 hours, a precipitate of NaBr formed, but the mixture remained stirrable. After ≈ 4 hours, sufficient ice-water was added to dissolve the precipitate (keep temperature below 25°C), and the solution was poured into water (total, 1750 ml). The product was extracted with 875, 700, and 525 ml dichloromethane, and the combined extract was washed four times with 875 ml water containing 100 g sodium chloride. After drying (MgSO_4), the solvent was removed to give 97 g of crude product which was used for further reaction without purification.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : δ 2.40 (t, 2 H), 4.27 (t, 2 H), 4.55 (t, 2 H) ppm.

2-(3-Bromopropoxy)tetrahydropyran. To 52.25 g 3-bromopropanol-1 was added 34.75 g dihydropyran at a rate to keep the temperature at 55°C . The mixture was then heated at 55°C for 2 hours. Volatiles were removed at $55^\circ\text{C}/1$ Torr for 2 hours to give the crude product which was $\approx 95\%$ pure by GC.

2-(3-Nitropropoxy)tetrahydropyran. Following the above procedure for 3-nitropropyl acetate, 87.2 g crude 2-(3-bromopropoxy)tetrahydropyran was reacted with 46.9 g sodium nitrite in 14.66 ml water and 278.60 ml DMSO. After 7 hours, the mixture was poured into 975 ml water, the product was extracted with 3 x 250 ml dichloromethane, and the extract was washed with 4 x 250 ml water, dried (MgSO_4), and stripped to give 60.0 g crude product. This material was used in the oxidative nitration without further purification.

2-(3,3-Dinitropropoxy)tetrahydropyran. 3.15 g crude 2-(3-nitropropoxy)tetrahydropyran was stirred with 9 ml 1 N sodium hydroxide with ice-cooling, and the solution was filtered with the aid of a small amount of Celite. With continued cooling, 0.79 g sodium nitrite was added, followed, after dissolution, by 5 ml ether and a solution of 3.9 g silver nitrate in 5 ml water. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 3 hours at room temperature; more ether was added and the mixture was filtered. The solid was washed with ether and the filtrate extracted twice with ether. The combined ether phases were dried (MgSO_4) and stripped to give 1.9 g crude product.

When the product was dissolved in 10 ml 1:1 methanol/ether and 3.25 ml 15% methanolic KOH was added with ice-cooling, 1.7 g potassium salt of the title compound was obtained after filtration and air-drying.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (D_2O) : δ 2.1 (broad s, 6 H), 3.65-4.6 (complex m, 7 H) ppm.

2 From Potassium 2-(3,3-dinitropropoxy)tetrahydropyran via Potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol-1. Potassium 2-(3,3-dinitropropoxy)tetrahydropyran (0.40 g, 1.5 mmol) was heated overnight with a solution of 10 ml MeOH and 2 ml of 3M HCl at 50° . Sodium sulfate, 2.0 g, was added and the solution filtered. This solution was treated with 5 M KOH/methanol (ice bath) until it tested basic with pH paper. The resultant yellow precipitate was collected and washed with ether to give 0.58 g crude potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol-1. The salt was heated in acetic acid (3 ml) up to 50° over a 20 minute period. Acetyl chloride (6 ml) was added and the solution was heated in a 55° bath overnight. The solution was poured into ice water, and after dichloromethane

extraction, removal of solvent, and dissolution of the crude acetate in methanol, the product was precipitated with KOH/methanol as above to give 0.25 g of yellow salt. This was dissolved in 8 ml H_2O and the pH adjusted to 3.2 with dilute HCl. Overnight stirring with 0.20 g formaldehyde solution (36%) gave, after CH_2Cl_2 extraction, 0.25 g (75%) of 2 which was pure by NMR analysis.

3-Nitropropyl nitrate from 3-nitropropyl acetate. 95 g of crude 3-nitropropyl acetate was dissolved in 300 ml methanol, 7 ml conc. HCl was added, and the mixture heated to 60-65°C for 24 hours. Stripping gave 62.5 g crude 3-nitropropanol. This was added with ice-cooling at <10°C to 187.5 ml 90% nitric acid, and the mixture stirred 0.5 hour at the same temperature. 125 ml conc. sulfuric acid was added at <10°C with stirring, the mixture stirred 1 hour with continued cooling and then drowned on crushed ice. Extraction with dichloromethane and usual work-up gave 78.5 g crude 3-nitropropyl nitrate.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : δ 2.53 (t, 2 H), 4.66 (2 overlapping triplets, 4 H) ppm.

Potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol-1 from 3-nitropropyl nitrate. 8 g crude 3-nitropropyl nitrate as prepared above was added with ice-cooling and stirring to a solution of 8 g potassium hydroxide in 40 ml methanol. The mixture was stirred 1 hour at ice-bath and 1 hour at ambient temperature, was cooled again and filtered. The product was washed with cold methanol and air-dried to give 5.88 g salt which was pure by NMR.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (D_2O) : δ 3.83 (t, 2 H), 4.40 (t, 2 H) ppm.

3,3-Dinitropropyl Acetate from Potassium 3,3-Dinitropropanol. 1.5 ml conc. sulfuric acid was diluted to 10 ml with ice-water; 10 ml ether was added followed by 4.15 g potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol which was added with ice-cooling and vigorous stirring. After 0.5 hour stirring at ice-bath temperature, the phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with ether. After drying (MgSO_4), the ether was removed and 5 ml each dichloromethane and acetyl chloride was added. The solution was refluxed several hours, poured on ice, and the product extracted with dichloromethane. Usual work-up gave 2.75 g of 3,3-dinitropropyl acetate.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : δ 2.10 (s, 3 H), 2.58 (double t, 2 H), 4.36 (t, 2 H), 6.40 (t, 1 H) ppm.

By an alternative procedure, potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol-1 (0.60 g, 3.2 mmol) was stirred with 4 g acetic acid at 20° for 1 hour. Acetyl chloride (8 g) was then added and the solution heated in a 50° bath for 5 hours. Following the drowning of the solution, dichloromethane extraction, and removal of solvent, the crude acetate was precipitated from methanol by addition of KOH/methanol to give 0.50 g (68%) of potassium 3,3-dinitropropyl-1-acetate.

3-Bromopropyl Nitrate. To mixed acid (5 ml conc. H_2SO_4 and 0.55 ml 90% HNO_3) was added with cooling 2.8 g 3-bromopropanol. The mixture was stirred with ice-cooling for 1 hour, drowned, and worked up as usual to give 1.7 g product as a yellow oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : δ 2.32 (t, 2 H), 3.53 (t, 2 H), 4.70 (t, 2 H) ppm.

Reaction of 3-Bromopropyl Nitrate with Sodium Nitrate in Aqueous DMSO.

To a solution of 6.62 g sodium nitrate in 2.07 ml water and 39.3 ml DMSO was added at 20°C 10.15 g 3-bromopropyl nitrate, and the mixture was stirred 7 hours at the same temperature. The reaction was poured into 140 ml water, the product extracted with 3 x 40 ml dichloromethane, and the extracts washed with 4 x 40 ml water. Usual work-up gave 6.44 g oil which by NMR analysis contained only a small amount of the desired 3-nitropropyl nitrate. The main component in the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) exhibited two triplets of equal intensity at δ 3.56 and 4.98 ppm.

2-Aminoethyl Acetate Hydrochloride. 8.2 g 2-Aminoethanol hydrochloride and 25 ml acetyl chloride was refluxed 24 hours, allowed to cool, diluted with dichloromethane, and the product collected by filtration. After drying over P_2O_5 in vacuo, the NMR spectrum showed the product to be the desired acetate hydrochloride.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (D_2O) : δ 2.70 (s, 3 H), 3.89 (t, 2 H), 4.95 (t, 2 H) ppm.

3-(2-Acetoxyethyl)-5,5-dinitroperhydroazoxepine. 11.65 g Formalin (36%), 87 ml water, 11.85 g potassium 3,3-dinitropropanol, and 3.57 g aminoethyl acetate hydrochloride were mixed with ice-cooling, then stirred at room temperature for 1.5 hours. Extraction with dichloromethane and usual work-up gave 13.35 g (76%) oil which by NMR was fairly pure title compound.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : δ 2.10 (s, 3 H), 2.80 (t, 2 H), 3.01 (t, 2 H), 3.95-4.20 (2t, 1s, 6 H), 4.34 (s, 2 H) ppm.

3,5,5-Trinitro-3-azaheptanediol-1,7 (7). 17.9 g of crude acetoxyethyl-dinitroperhydroazoxepine prepared as described above was mixed with 10 ml glacial acetic acid and added with stirring at $5-10^\circ\text{C}$ to a mixture of 210.6 ml acetic anhydride and 63.2 ml 90% nitric acid (prepared at $20-25^\circ\text{C}$). After stirring 5 hours at $\approx 5^\circ\text{C}$, the mixture was poured into 1 l ice-water, stirred vigorously for 1 hour, and the product extracted into dichloromethane. The oil obtained on usual work-up was mixed with 89 ml 70% aqueous methanol and 25 drops conc. hydrochloric acid and stirred at $65-70^\circ$ overnight. After cooling, about 2/3 of the solvent was removed in vacuo, 100 ml water was added, and the product was extracted with ether. Drying and stripping gave 13.35 g crude diol as a viscous oil. The NMR spectrum showed no major impurities, but a number of minor ones. Pure diol was isolated by chromatography on Silica (200 ml, EM Reagents Kieselgel 60) with dichloromethane-ethyl acetate 9:1 to 1:1 as eluant. The conditions for the chromatography were not optimized. About 7 g of solid diol was obtained plus 3-4 g of noncrystalline material. The solid fractions were recrystallized from dichloromethane. MP $50-51.5^\circ\text{C}$.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_3OD) : δ 2.87 (t, 2 H), 3.70-4.15 (3t, 6 H), 5.23 (s, 2 H) ppm.

The diol was converted to the dinitrate by reacting with 100% nitric acid. MP $64-6^\circ\text{C}$.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_2Cl_2) : δ 3.10 (t, 2 H), 4.19 (t, 2 H), 4.82 (double t, 4 H), 5.07 (s, 2 H) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_6H_{10}N_6O_{12}$: C, 20.12; H, 2.81; N, 23.46%. Found: C, 20.40; H, 2.67; N, 23.19%.

4,5-Diacetoxy-1,3-diacetylimidazolidine. A mixture of 1,3-diacetyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidine⁸ (18.8 g, 0.1 mol) and acetic anhydride (100 ml) was refluxed for 30 minutes. The solution was then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to leave a residue which was triturated with ether (100 ml) and filtered to yield 20.8 g (76.4%) of white crystals: MP 136-139°C (partial melting) and then at 147-149°C. The ¹H-NMR spectrum (CDCl₃) showed a mixture of *cis* and *trans* isomers in approximately equal proportions; δ 2.09 (m, CH₃s), 4.90 and 5.20 (AB quartet, *cis*-CH₂), 5.04 (s, *trans*-CH₂), 6.33 (s, *trans*-CHs), 6.35 and 6.54 (s, *cis*-CHs) ppm; mass spectrum (CI, CH₄) m/z 213 (100), 273 (M+1, 0.3), 301 (M+C₂H₅, 6), 313 (M+C₃H₅, 4).

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_6$: C, 48.52; H, 5.92; N, 10.29. Found: C, 48.58; H, 6.02; N, 10.34.

cis-2,4,6,8-Tetraacetyl-2,4,6,8-tetraazabicyclo-[3.3.0]octane (16). A solution of 4,5-diacetoxy-1,3-diacetylimidazolidine (13.61 g, 0.05 mol), N,N'-methylenebisacetamide⁹ (6.77 g, 0.052 mol), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (0.5 g), and CH₃CN (300 ml) was refluxed for 18 hours, and the solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in hot CH₃OH (70 ml), cooled overnight in a refrigerator, and the solid filtered to yield 8.2 g (58%) of white crystals: MP 243-245°C; ¹H-NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ 2.07 and 2.30 (unsym. singlets, 12 H, CH₃), 4.48 and 5.54 (AB quartet, 4 H, CH₂), 6.25 (s, 2 H, CH) ppm; mass spectrum (CI, CH₄) m/z 212 (100), 283 (M+1, 17), 311 (M+C₂H₅, 4), 323 (M+C₃H₅, 4).

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_{12}H_{18}N_4O_4$: C, 51.05; H, 6.43; N, 19.85. Found: C, 50.95; N, 6.54; N, 19.86.

16 Via 4,5-Ditrifluoroacetoxy-1,3-diacetylimidazolidine. A mixture of 0.95 g 4,5-dihydroxy-1,3-diacetylimidazolidine,⁸ 5 ml dichloromethane, and 0.8 g pyridine was cooled in an ice-bath under a nitrogen atmosphere, and 1.75 ml trifluoroacetic anhydride was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and the volatiles were removed in vacuo. 0.66 g Methylene-bis-acetamide⁹ was added, and the mixture was stirred slowly while the reaction flask was evacuated to ~20 Torr. After heating to 75-80°C in vacuo overnight and allowing to cool, 10 ml methanol was added and the mixture was kept at -10 to -20°C. 0.42 g (30%) of solid was collected by filtration. It was identical by NMR and MP with the material obtained above via the diacetate.

N,N'-Methylenebis-(benzyl carbamate). A mixture of benzyl carbamate (15.1 g, 0.1 mol), paraformaldehyde (1.50 g, 0.05 mol), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (190 mg, 1.0 mmol), and toluene (200 ml) was refluxed 30 minutes using a Dean-Stark trap to collect the water formed. The solution was cooled to 0°C and filtered to yield 6.3 g of white crystals: MP 137-140°C. Another 1.0 g of crystals were obtained by concentrating the toluene to 25 ml (total yield 46.5%). Recrystallization from CH₃CN gave colorless flat needles: double MP 149-150°C and 156-157°C; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.59 (t, 2 H, CH₂N), 5.16 (s, 4 H, CH₂O), 5.92 (br m, 2 H, NH), 7.43 (s, 10 H, arom) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_{17}H_{18}N_2O_4$: C, 64.95; H, 5.77; N, 8.91.
Found: C, 64.92; H, 5.86; N, 8.87.

N,N-Methylenebis-(ethylthiolcarbamate). A mixture of ethyl thiolcarbamate (10.5 g, 0.1 mol), paraformaldehyde (1.50 g, 0.05 mol), sulfuric acid (3 drops), and toluene (150 ml) was refluxed for 1 hour using a Dean-Stark trap to collect the water formed. The mixture was filtered while still hot, then cooled to 0°C and filtered to give 3.95 g of white plates: MP $158-159^{\circ}\text{C}$. Concentration of the filtrate to 25 ml and diluting with isopropyl ether (25 ml) gave a second crop of crystals (1.28 g): MP $154-156^{\circ}\text{C}$ (total yield 47%). Recrystallization from CH_3CN gave colorless flat needles: MP $159-160^{\circ}\text{C}$; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.30 (t, 6 H, CH_3), 2.93 (q, 4 H, CH_2), 4.67 (t, 2 H, CH_2N), 6.69 (br m, 2 H, NH) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_7H_{14}N_2S_2O_2$: C, 37.81; H, 6.35; N, 12.60; S, 28.84.
Found: C, 37.87; H, 6.43; N, 12.63; S, 29.00.

Conditions for Attempted Reactions of N,N'-methylenebis-(benzylcarbamate). (a) With glyoxal: aqueous acetonitrile, hydrochloric acid, 1 hour reflux \longrightarrow no reaction; water, pH9, 2 days room temperature \longrightarrow no reaction; (b) with 4,5-diacetoxy-1,3-diacetylimidazol-idine: acetonitrile, p-toluenesulfonic acid, 18 hours reflux \longrightarrow starting material plus water-soluble oil.

Conditions for Attempted Reactions of N,N'-methylenebis-(ethylthiolcarbamate). (a) With glyoxal: glyoxal trimer, toluene, p-toluenesulfonic acid, 4 hours reflux \longrightarrow no reaction; aqueous THF, pH 8.5, 20 hours room temperature \longrightarrow no reaction; aqueous methanol, hydrochloric acid, 18 hours room temperature, 30 minutes reflux \longrightarrow no reaction; (b) with 4,5-diacetoxy-1,3-diacetylimidazolidine: acetonitrile, p-toluenesulfonic acid, 18 hours reflux \longrightarrow starting material plus water-soluble oil.

1,4-Diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetrahydroxypiperazine.⁷ A solution of glyoxal (435 g of aqueous 40% solution, 3.0 mol) and formamide (135 g, 3.0 mol) was adjusted to pH 8.6 with 10 N NaOH. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours, and the precipitated white solid was then filtered (16.5 g). The filtrate was adjusted to pH 8.6, stirred for 2 hours, and the precipitated solid was again filtered (150 g). The combined solids were triturated with hot 50% DMF- H_2O (200 ml) and filtered to yield 156 g (50.5%) of white solid which has no melting point, but which darkens at $\sim 175^{\circ}\text{C}$ and blackens above 195°C ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{Me}_2\text{SO}-d_6$) δ 5.04 (s, 2 H, CH), 5.53 (s, 2 H, CH), 6.05 (br s, 4 H, OH), 8.32 (s, 2 H, CHO) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_6H_{10}N_2O_6$: C, 34.95; H, 4.89; N, 13.59.
Found: C, 34.93; H, 4.88; N, 13.48.

1,4-Diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetraacetoxypiperazine.¹⁰ A mixture of 1,4-diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetrahydroxypiperazine (10.3 g, 0.05 mol), acetic anhydride (100 ml), and sulfuric acid (0.3 ml) was heated at 100°C for 1 hour, then cooled and the solid filtered and washed with ether to yield 15.7 g (83.9%) of white crystals: MP $251-254^{\circ}\text{C}$ dec. The analytical sample was recrystallized twice from CH_3CN : MP $259-260^{\circ}\text{C}$ dec; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 2.12 (s, 12 H, CH_3), 6.13 (s, 2 H, CH), 6.89 (s, 2 H, CH), 8.57 (s, 2 H, CHO) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_{14}H_{18}N_2O_{10}$: C, 44.92; H, 4.85; N, 7.49.
Found: C, 44.99; N, 4.83; H, 7.48.

1,4-Diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetranitratopiperazine.¹⁰ To trifluoroacetic anhydride (6 ml) at 0°C was added 100% nitric acid (3 ml), followed by 1,4-diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetrahydroxypiperazine (1.03 g, 5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 15 minutes and then at room temperature for 1 hour. Methylene dichloride (25 ml) was then added and the precipitate filtered to yield 1.75 g (90.7%) of white solid; MP 144-145°C dec. Recrystallization from ethyl acetate-isopropyl ether gave white crystals: MP 151°C dec; ¹H-NMR (Me_2CO-d_6) δ 7.27 (br s, 2 H, CH), 7.42 (br s, 2 H, CH), 8.87 (s, 2 H, CHO) ppm.

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_6H_6N_6O_4$: C, 18.66; H, 1.57; N, 21.77.
Found: C, 18.75; H, 1.58; N, 20.45.

1,4-Diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetrachloropiperazine.¹⁰ A mixture of 1,4-diformyl-2,3,5,6-tetrahydroxypiperazine (20.6 g, 0.1 mol), pyridine (1.58 g, 0.02 mol), and thionylchloride (200 ml) was refluxed for 75 minutes, then cooled and diluted with isopropyl ether (200 ml). The precipitate was filtered to yield 21.5 g (76.8%) of white crystals: MP 174-176°C dec. Recrystallization from ethyl acetate-hexane raised the MP to 189-190°C dec; ¹H-NMR (Me_2CO-d_6) δ 6.83 (br s, 2 H, CH), 6.97 (br s, 2 H, CH), 8.93 (s, 2 H, CHO) ppm.

cis-2,3-Diacetoxy-1,4-dinitropiperazine (19a). A mixture of ethylene dinitramine (15.0 g, 0.1 mol), glyoxal (21.76 g of 40% aqueous solution, 0.15 mol), sulfuric acid (2.0 ml), and acetic acid (10 ml) was heated at 90-100°C for 20 minutes and then stirred for 30 minutes longer while the solution cooled to room temperature. The solution was then placed in a cold water bath while acetic anhydride (200 ml) was added dropwise over 20 minutes. After stirring at room temperature for 2 days, the mixture was filtered to give 9.70 g of white crystals: MP 206-208°C. An additional 4.25 g of product (MP 184-190°C) was obtained by evaporation of the filtrate to 50 ml under reduced pressure, adding isopropyl ether (25 ml), and cooling overnight in a refrigerator at 0°C. The total yield was 47.7%. The analytical sample, recrystallized from ethyl acetate-isopropyl ether, had MP 207-209°C; ¹H-NMR (CD_2Cl_2) δ 2.05 (s, 6 H, CH_3), 3.76 and 4.52 (AB quartet, 4 H, CH_2 , $J = 8H_z$), 7.09 (s, 2 H, CH) ppm; mass spectrum (CI, CH_4) m/z 61 (100), 223 ($M+1 - CH_3CO_2H$, 59).

Anal. Calc'd. for $C_8H_{12}N_4O_8$: C, 32.88; H, 4.14; N, 19.17.
Found: C, 32.83; H, 4.14; N, 19.27.

cis-2,3-Dichloro-1,4-dinitropiperazine (19b). Dry HCl gas was bubbled into a mixture of cis-2,3-diacetoxy-1,4-dinitropiperazine (2.92 g, 10 mmol) and ethyleneglycol (100 ml), cooled in a cold water bath, until saturated (~25 minutes). After stirring at room temperature for 3 days the solution was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue triturated with isopropyl ether-hexane (1:1, 20 ml) and filtered to give 1.90 g of white crystals: MP 145-149°C. An additional 0.21 g of product was obtained by cooling the filtrate overnight in a refrigerator at 0°C. The total yield was

86%. The analytical sample was recrystallized from benzene-hexane: MP 148-150°C; ¹H-NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ 3.71 and 4.60 (AB quartet, 4 H, CH₂, J = 10 Hz), 6.83 (s, 2 H, CH), ppm; mass spectrum (CI, CH₄) m/z 209 (100), 211 (38), 245 [M+1 (Cl³⁵), 18], 247 (12), 249 (2), 273 (8), 285 (0.4).

Anal. Calc'd. for C₄H₆Cl₂N₄O₄: C, 19.61; H, 2.47; Cl, 28.94; N, 22.87.
Found: C, 19.57; H, 2.48; Cl, 29.11; N, 23.06.

cis-1,4-Dinitro-2,3-bis(trifluoroacetoxy)piperazine (19c). A solution of cis-2,3-diacetoxy-1,4-dinitropiperazine (1.46 g, 5 mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (20 ml), and trifluoroacetic anhydride (5 ml) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 ml) was refluxed for 18 hours, then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, and the residue triturated with isopropyl ether (10 ml) and filtered to yield 1.81 g (90.5%) of white crystals: MP 141-143°C. The analytical sample was obtained by washing a sample of this product, in CH₂Cl₂, with aqueous 5% NaHCO₃ and recrystallizing this product from benzene-hexane: MP 144-145°C; ¹H-NMR (CD₂Cl₂) δ 3.84 and 4.67 (AB quartet, 4 H, CH₂, J = 8 Hz), 7.38 (s, 2 H, CH); mass spectrum (CI, CH₄) m/z 128 (100), 287 (M+1 - CF₃CO₂H, 58), 429 (M+C₂H₅, 2).

Anal. Calc'd. for C₈H₆N₄O₈: C, 24.01; H, 1.51; F, 28.49; N, 14.00.
Found: C, 24.18; H, 1.48; F, 28.34; N, 14.06.

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